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THE TIMES

No. 66,019

MONDAY OCTOBER 13 1997

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TODAY
10P

FA seeks explanation for brutality

Rome police accused of over-reacting

BY RICHARD DUCE IN ROME

INQUIRIES were under way last night into how an expensive and long-planned police operation to control crowds at the Italy v England World Cup qualifying game degenerated into the weekend's violent shambles in Rome.

The Football Association yesterday began its own inquiry, determined to prevent trouble for English fans at next summer's World Cup in France. Both the Government and the FA are demanding explanations from the Italian authorities for the behaviour of police in Rome towards England's travelling band of 9,000 supporters.

England fans still in Rome yesterday and those returning home complained bitterly about the ferocity of police baton charges during the game as well as a decision to keep 2,000 of them inside the stadium for three hours after the match.

The insistence of returning supporters that they were not to blame was backed last night by politicians and football authorities. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said that Italian police had provoked some of the trouble.

"The FA have already been in contact with FIFA, the game's governing body, to ensure that England supporters and to three new security talks ahead of next summer's World Cup when 30,000 English fans are expected to travel to France. Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said: "We must make sure England fans are



Police charge English fans at the Rome game.

never treated like this again." He added that the FA could not be held responsible for mistakes made by the Italians who had 6,000 police inside and outside the Stadio Olimpico.

Football authorities will also want to ensure that Saturday night's trouble will not jeopardise England's bid to host the World Cup in 2006.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who was in Rome for the match, backed an inquiry. The British embassy in the Italian capital expressed its concern about the policing of the game - which ended 0-0 and ensured England's qualification for next year's World Cup.

David Mellor, head of the British Government's Football Task Force, described the behaviour of the police as

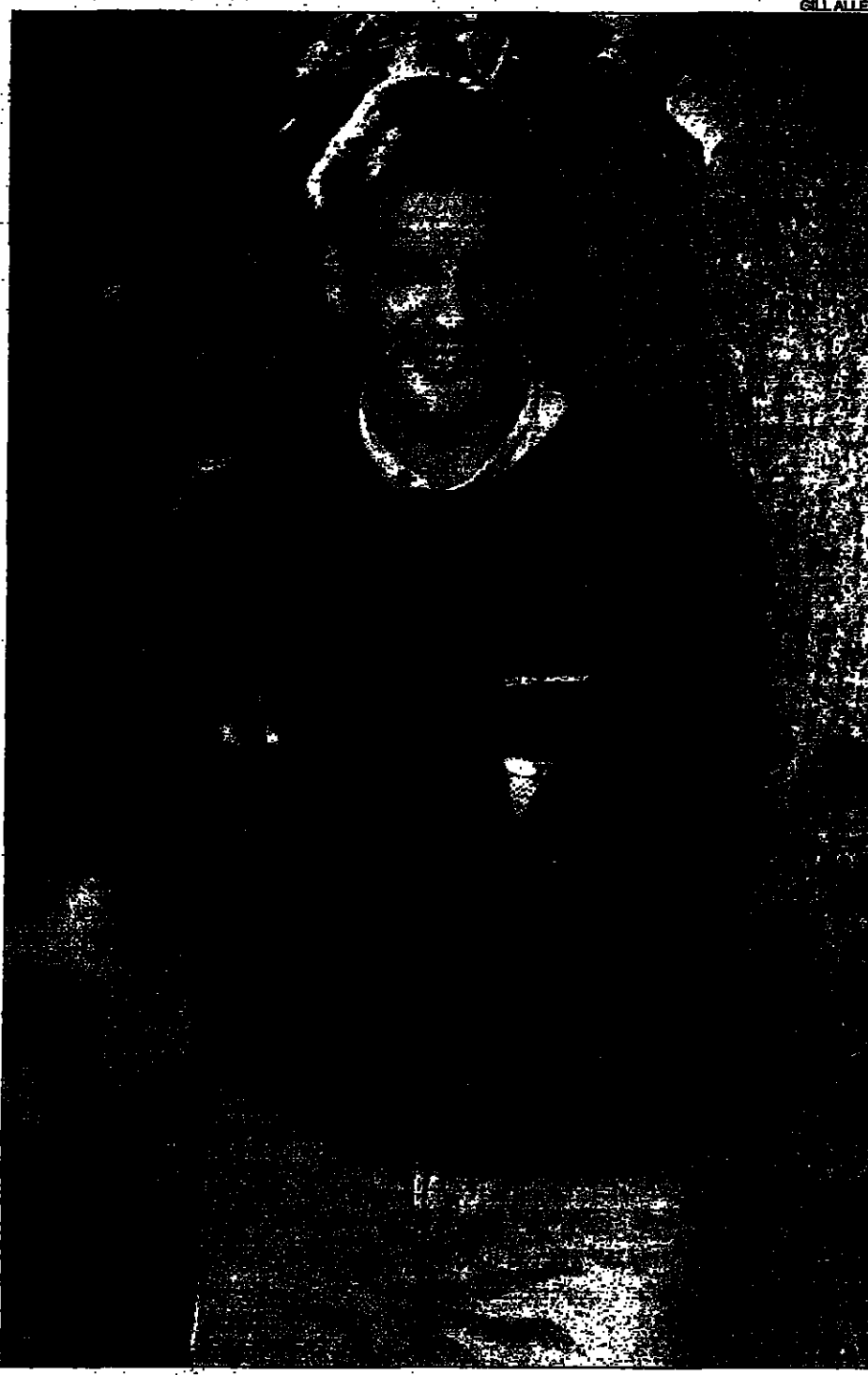
outrageous, saying: "The Italians should be ashamed of themselves." He added that Rome's Chief of Police had totally misled an English delegation by saying supporters would be treated fairly and decently.

An FA inquiry will centre on how tickets for Italian sections of the ground were sold to England supporters on the day of the match, and how others walked into the ground unchecked.

One supporter, David Walker, 30, a teacher from Stafford, said: "The whole organisation was a complete shambles. England fans with tickets for the away end were being sent to the Italian section of the ground. No one seemed to be checking tickets, mine wasn't even stamped - I could have had a ticket to the moon and still have got in."

Other supporters described being moved from their designated areas to an Italian section. It was there that trouble flared within moments of the kick off. Coins and drink cans were hurled back and forth across police lines.

Last night Italian police tried to shift some of the blame for the Rome policing operation on to British police. Rino Monaco, Rome's Chief of Police, said that he had been led to believe from English intelligence that 8,000 to 9,000 fans would descend on Rome but he believed the number was nearer 16,000, and many had been able to buy tickets. He said that enormous efforts



Glenn Hoddle, England's coach, back home in Ascot. Police provoked the fans, he said.

had been made to treat English supporters fairly, but basic force had been needed against troublemakers.

Earlier Antonio del Greco, director of police operations in Rome, had conceded yesterday that there had been mistakes in organising the match,

but he said the baton charges were justified.

Despite the intensity of the sporadic baton charges there was only one serious injury - to an Italian policeman, who was treated for concussion when he was hit by a seat ripped from its fixing.

Official England supporters clubs will today ask fans caught up in the violence to use special telephone lines to detail the police behaviour.

Ruined glory, page 3
Match reports, pages 25-27
TV reviews, page 33

Defence and trade budgets must bail out crisis-hit NHS

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Whitehall ministries have been told to find hundreds of millions of pounds in savings to stave off a winter hospital crisis in the NHS.

The announcement of the emergency funding, ordered by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will be made by the Treasury within the next week. The final figure has not been calculated, but it is between £200 million and £300 million.

The move is designed to stop any more ward closures, prevent waiting lists going out of control and to avoid scenes similar to those that haunted the last Government: the sick sleeping on trolleys awaiting treatment.

The Ministry of Defence, which overspent its budget by £170 million last year, and the Department of Trade and Industry will have to find the money from their budgets. Extra money from the European Union will also be diverted to the NHS.

Only last month George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that his department's £20 billion was stretched to the limit. In the Budget, the Chancellor said that he would raid the contingency reserve to provide £1 billion in extra funding for the health service next year. But the emergency payment is in response to warnings of serious problems in hospitals this winter. Rising health authority debts have threatened widespread bed closures and the cancellation of thousands of operations.

Christine Hancock, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, welcomed the cash injection. She said: "This is a significantly useful contribution. Of course we would have liked more, but with good targeting and co-ordination this should really help this winter."

James Johnson, chairman of the British Medical Association consultants' committee, said that the extra funding had to be made available quickly if problems were to be avoided over the winter.

He said that extra beds had to be opened now to ensure that hospitals could cope with emergency admissions, which always rose over the winter. "I earnestly hope the extra money can be released to the NHS now so that some wards that have been mothballed can be reopened and additional staff recruited."

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the move was a U-turn that should have been announced to Parliament. "It is a result of the Labour Government's own actions, which are increasing NHS costs and burdens so that spending plans will no longer provide so much patient care." Sir George Young, Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "The Defence Secretary must now spell out exactly how these new cuts in the budget will be met."

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, denied that the Defence Ministry's frontline capability would be affected. "I am making it clear to George Robertson and to all my colleagues that they have got to ensure their departments are run efficiently."

The Defence Ministry said that when Mr Robertson said his budget was stretched to the limit, he was aware that the Chancellor was about to raid his resources.

Blair to meet Adams today

Tony Blair will today become the first British Prime Minister to meet an Irish republican leader in 76 years when he comes face to face with Gerry Adams behind closed doors. In an interview with *The Times* Mr Adams has spoken of "Mr Blair's 'bearing vision'" Page 4

EU approval

Britain will be awarded high marks by the European Union today for progress in bringing its economy into line for qualifying for economic and monetary union. Page 9 Janet Bush, page 48



The Messerschmitt 109 fighter which crash landed after developing engine trouble.

Air show Messerschmitt crash lands near M11

BY DES BURKINSHAW AND JOHN SHAW

THE last flying Messerschmitt 109 fighter crashed in a field during an air show yesterday on what was already expected to have been its last flight.

The plane ended up upside down close to the M11 near the Duxford Imperial War Museum, Cambridgeshire, where it had been one of the star attractions at the Autumn Air Show. The pilot Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison was uninjured.

He managed to clear the motorway but then overshot the airfield. As it touched down in a field, the Messerschmitt flipped on to its back, leaving Sir John dangling by his harness. He stayed in the plane until it was righted by a crane, rather than being cut out by firemen, to save further damage to the fuselage.

Sir John, 54, was said to have flown the Messerschmitt

"countless times" before. The deputy Commander-in-Chief of RAF Strike Command from 1994-96, he has since held the post of Air Member for Logistics and Air Officer Commander-in-Chief Logistics Command. He was knighted in 1995 and is a keen restorer of vintage cars and aircraft.

The plane was owned by the Ministry of Defence and worth an estimated £1 million. Its future was to have been reviewed this week after concerns were raised about its airworthiness.

Frank Crosby, marketing manager at Duxford, said: "The aircraft appeared to be coming into land, when it developed an engine problem. The pilot decided to do an emergency landing and came down in a field."

Mark Nicholls, an archivist with *Flypast* magazine, said:

"As he was coming in it was trailing thin blue smoke. By the time he came to land, the engine seemed to be dead and it looked as though he was trying to glide it."

The event, which also featured five Spitfires, was attended by Lady Bader, widow of Group Captain Douglas Bader who was stationed at the airfield during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

The Messerschmitt Bf 109G, known as a Gustaf, was built in 1942 and became a popular attraction at air shows. Experts who worked on it believed it was about to be grounded and put on display at the RAF Museum, Hendon, North London.

It saw action in the Western Desert before being captured by Australians and put into storage. After being spotted in 1972 and restored, it flew again in 1991.

£20m fund will speed dismissal of bad teachers

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A FUND of nearly £20 million is being prepared by the Government to help schools to speed up the sacking of the country's worst teachers. *The Times* has learnt.

Ministers plan to offer the money to head teachers so that they can remove incompetent staff from the classroom and hire temporary teachers to take their place.

Stephen Byers, the Schools Standards Minister, believes the fund will encourage schools to make proper use of the proposed "fast-track" dismissal procedures, agreed by employers and unions earlier this month.

Under this process, the worst teachers will be given a month to improve after being identified as incompetent. If they fail to do so, they will be given notice, which could be anything up to three months. The government fund will enable heads to bring in supply teachers straight away so sacked staff do not have to work the notice, in effect speeding dismissal.

Mr Byers believes £17 million will be needed, based on a projection by the Local Government Association that about 2,000 teachers stand to lose their jobs under the "fast-track" measures. This would cover the £100-a-day cost of 2,000 supply teachers for up to three months each.

Graham Lane, chairman of the National Employers Organisation for School Teachers, said: "The money would be very helpful and would certainly get things moving quickly. I would not

be surprised if it meant 2,000 teachers were not teaching by next Easter."

He added: "The vast majority of teachers who are doing a very good job do not want to be working with these teachers. Why should 98 per cent of the profession constantly feel they are being attacked because 2 per cent cannot do a good job?"

The Department for Education and Employment is considering details of the "fast-track" agreement between unions and employers before publishing the final scheme later this year, when the fund is likely to be announced.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that the grading of teachers in Ofsted inspections suggested fewer than 1,000 out of 440,000 were at the lowest competency level.

He added: "One of the ridiculous situations has been that, because of the way school budgets are structured, there is not enough money to dismiss someone and pay them three months pay. You get the nonsense of a teacher identified as not doing a decent job but still doing the job in front of the children. This is not a situation which would exist in commerce or industry."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Once a teacher has been found to be beyond the pale, it is in everyone's interests that they should not be left to serve out between two and three months' notice."

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Hague to face revolt by MPs over reforms

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JILL SHERMAN

WILLIAM HAGUE is facing a showdown with senior Tory backbenchers who have launched an attempt to block sweeping reforms, including a vote for grassroots members in leadership contests.

It emerged last night that the shake-up of the party will be far more radical than had been envisaged. Plans are also being considered to change the face of the annual party conference. Mr Hague is being urged to scrap the traditional four-day format and replace it with a two-and-a-half-day gathering which would end on Saturday.

The move is an attempt to attract younger people and businessmen to conferences. It would have a further benefit of diluting the "blue rinse" image of the annual gathering: the average age of members of Conservative constituency associations is

Kenneth Clarke ruled out a move to Brussels yesterday and said he would follow Sir Edward Heath's example by remaining on the Tory backbenches. The speculation over his future was fuelled by two EU foreign ministers who said he would be a good candidate for EU President. Mr Clarke insisted he was happy combining his role as a backbench MP with jobs in the City.

64. Despite the success of last week's conference, where activists clamoured for a decisive say in leadership contests, a group of influential MPs is determined to scupper Mr Hague's favoured plan of almost halving their say in future elections.

At present only MPs choose the leader but Mr Hague wants to give up to 40 per cent of a proposed new electoral

college to activists, peers, and MEPs. Leading figures on the executive of the 1922 Committee, which sets the leadership rules, have privately made clear that they are opposed to such a large loss of influence. One long-serving member said: "A Tory leader must enjoy the confidence of his Parliamentary party or he cannot survive. We will be dangerously close to an area where the membership will have as much say as us."

John Townend, a member of the executive, said: "In principle I am against an electoral college as it is MPs who know the leader, warts and all. But we will have to give something. But I would be opposed to anything more than 20 per cent. If the activists had their way Ted Heath would never have been replaced."

Without the consent of the committee, Mr Hague could be powerless to act and his reform process would be badly damaged. Another member of the committee said: "The 1922 nominated and chose Mr Hague. He is responsible to his electorate. We have never been in this position before but there is nothing the leader can do if we outvote him."

Only last week Sir Archie Hamilton, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, was booed when he told the conference that MPs must decide the leadership. He is prepared for a bruising fight.

But a senior member of the Shadow Cabinet said last night: "The Parliamentary party must move with the times. It will defy the wishes of the party at large at its peril. They must understand that. We hope that Archie understands that."

Michael Colvin, a member of the 1922 executive, supported the reformers. "I have been a party member for almost 40 years. We have moved on to a different generation. We have to change or die. I think the figure will even out at 30 per cent."

Letters, page 21

Tories to oppose Greenwich dome

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Tory leadership is reconsidering its support for the Millennium Dome because of alarm over rising costs.

With the first of the dozen 300-metre yellow masts due to go up on the Greenwich site in southeast London this week, it emerged that support has evaporated in the Shadow Cabinet.

The widely expected move to reverse the Tory manifesto's support for the project, which was conceived by John Major's Government, would put William Hague at odds with Michael Heseltine.

The former Deputy Prime Minister, who championed the cause in the last Government, has accepted a role as a millennium commissioner from Tony Blair. He was

critical of the proposed U-turn yesterday on the £750 million scheme which is being funded from the National Lottery.

But one senior Tory said last night: "On a temperature gauge the degree of enthusiasm for this in the Shadow Cabinet would not get into double figures." Tory MPs want the money to be spent on smaller projects to benefit all regions.

Mr Hague's opposition could be popular with voters as opinion polls show overwhelming doubts about the expense. The strategy would also be designed to put pressure on Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge of the dome, who has been criticised by Labour MPs for pressing ahead with the scheme.



Britain's Simon Chalk embraces his girlfriend before the start of the big race.

Rowers set off to tackle challenge of the Atlantic

BY JOANNA BAILE

SIXTY oarsmen set off yesterday on a gruelling two-month boat race across the Atlantic that will test their endurance to the limit.

After emotional farewells to their wives and girlfriends, the men left Tenerife in a flotilla of 30 tiny rowing boats. Ahead of them are 2,900 miles of mountainous seas and howling gales before their destination, Barbados.

Each pair will spend about ten weeks rowing their 23ft vessels while surviving on a diet of reconstituted stews

and high-energy snacks. The rowers will need up to two pints of water every hour and will rely on desalination equipment. The only shelter on the identical boats is a rear cabin about 7ft long and tapering in width from 5ft to 1ft.

Sir Chay Blyth, the Atlantic Rowing Race organiser who completed the crossing with John Ridgway in 1966, said: "The pressure is to keep the boat moving all the time. You have to trust each other to put the same amount of energy into it because it is very easy

to think the other chap is not rowing as hard as you."

"The smallest things get on your nerves and you simply cannot afford to have a serious argument in mid-Atlantic."

Jack Wisbart, a Surrey public relations officer, held psychological tests on eight potential partners before choosing Duncan Nicoll, a former Commonwealth sculling competitor. He said: "It is absolutely vital to get on with the other person. You spend more time together than you do with your wife."

Railway watchdog to attack leasing of trains

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE railways watchdog is to mount a fierce attack on the performance of the three companies that make huge profits leasing trains to operators.

John Swift, the rail regulator, is to urge ministers to take urgent action to control the activities of the rolling stock firms which lease 11,000 trains to 25 operators. He is said to be "convinced" that he is powerless to influence the unregulated rolling stock companies that dominate the railway industry and he is expected to voice his frustration in evidence to MPs later this month.

He has become increasingly annoyed over failures by the leasing companies to meet investment promises and to comply with maintenance contracts.

Ownership of British Rail rolling stock was sold for £1.8 billion in January and February last year to three leasing companies, Angel Trains Contracts, Eversholt Leasing and Porterbrook Leasing. Each of the companies has since made large profits amid widespread complaints within the industry about poor train maintenance and their investment record.

The criticisms have coincided with revelations that hundreds of carriages are lying idle because of disputes between operators and companies over the costs of leases. Up to 700 carriages are reported to be unused at any one time, despite some operators struggling to cope with rising numbers of passengers.

A 7 per cent increase in passengers over the last year has intensified pressure on train operators to provide more timetabled services and longer trains. However, they claim that leasing companies are failing to invest enough in new rolling stock, leaving passengers relying on antiquated and increasingly unreliable trains, many of them more than 30 years old.

Mr Swift is expected to tell MPs that only wider regulation will deliver the improvements privatisation was predicted to bring.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ivy League to improve education proposed

The "impossible dream" of a mass higher education system is destroying traditional universities and degree standards, a former Government education adviser has said.

Anthony O'Hear calls in a pamphlet published by the Centre for Policy Studies for leading universities to form an Ivy League that shuns modular degrees and Tony Blair's aim of increasing student numbers. Professor O'Hear said that reforms proposed by the Dearing Committee on Higher Education were akin to the replacement of grammar schools with comprehensive schools with comprehensive schools. He also attacked as unacademic a range of "new" degree subjects, including Animal Care and Caribbean Studies.

Murder suspect faces extradition

Extradition proceedings will begin in Holland today to return a suspect in the murder of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin to Dublin. Brian Meehan, 32, was arrested in Amsterdam on Friday in an operation planned by Dutch and Irish police. He was held after meeting his girlfriend whom gardai had followed from Dublin. All but three of the principal suspects in Ms Guerin's murder are now in police custody. She was shot while investigating Dublin's criminal underworld.

Mental patients 'have killed 104'

Some 104 people have been killed by mental patients receiving care in the community in under five years, the Zito Trust has estimated. The organisation, which was established after Jonathan Zito was killed by a schizophrenic, says that more than half the killers were not taking their medication at the time. Tonight's *Panorama* examines the issue.

Vaz calls for race quotas

The staffing of government departments should be representative of the ethnic make-up of the population, Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, has said. He is issuing a report today showing that the percentage of Asians in the Civil Service is 2.03 per cent - 1.5 per cent lower than in the population - and that they are mainly in lower grades.

Appeal for more blood donors

The Department of Health has made a nationwide appeal for blood donors because of a shortage that could result in the cancellation of routine operations. The National Blood Authority aims to collect 10,000 units a day, but that fell to 5,000 last Friday. The department blamed people failing to keep appointments because of seasonal illnesses.

Mustard gas to help treat cancer

A chemical with the same base as the deadly gas which killed or maimed thousands of men in the First World War is to be used in a new generation of drugs to treat cancer. Nitrogen mustard will be part of a chemotherapy drug which researchers at the Zeneca pharmaceuticals company hope will destroy tumours with far fewer unpleasant side-effects.

Agency finances defence in British au pair's trial

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LOUISE WOODWARD, the British au pair on trial in America accused of murdering an infant in her care, has a high-powered and highly-paid defence team representing her in the Boston courtroom.

Whatever the emotional trauma she is undergoing she has, however, no financial strain to bear at all, and her parents from Elton, near Chester, are not contributing to the estimated £1,000 an hour it costs to pay for her four defence lawyers. The bill is being paid by EF Au Pair, the agency based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which recruited her and placed her with the family of Matthew Eappen, the nine-month old child she stands accused of shaking to death.

There is also a legal defence fund, ostensibly set up by friends and well-wishers in England. Many in Cambridge believe that this fund, too, has the close backing of the au pair agency. The star on Miss Woodward's team is Barry Scheck, the articulate lawyer from New York whose curriculum vitae boasts membership of OJ Simpson's "dream

team". A short, mop-haired man, Mr Scheck's tenacious cross-examination of the prosecution's medical witnesses has helped to chip away at the prosecution case.

There is a curious inversion on view in this case. Miss Woodward's callow age and obvious inexperience - added to the bewilderment of being in custody in a foreign country - would normally have secured her the underdog's position. Yet so slick is her legal team, and so high-profile its star, Mr Scheck, that she has



Scheck on team for OJ Simpson

gradually come to be seen here as a sort of "overdog".

According to reliable reports, Mr Scheck is being paid up to £340 per hour. Her local lawyers, Andrew Good, Harvey Silverglate and Elaine Whitfield-Sharp are thought to be getting about £230 per hour. At a conservative estimate, the cost of Miss Woodward's legal defence is likely to amount to nearly £340,000.

By contrast, Gerard Leone, the Deputy First Assistant District Attorney, who is handling the prosecution of Miss Woodward, is believed to earn an annual salary of about £30,000.

There are fears that Mr Scheck's presence on Miss Woodward's team could prove counter-productive. Cambridge is a conservative area, and the jury in Miss Woodward's case is largely middle-class. As one observer said: "They see him out there as the guy who got OJ off. Now, that's a sign that he's clever, no doubt. But you know, most people here weren't too thrilled with the OJ verdict."

Church faces payouts over cruel nuns

BY AUDREY MAGEE AND RORY CARROLL

THE Roman Catholic Church is facing damages totalling millions of pounds from former residents of children's homes who say they were scarred for life after abuse by nuns.

Hundreds of separate civil cases are expected to be lodged against religious orders in Scotland and Ireland alleging sadism and sexual assaults. A £20,000 out-of-court settlement last week by the Dublin-based Sisters of Mercy, paid to the parents of an 11-month-old girl who died 42 years ago supposedly from dysentery, but in fact suffered severe unexplained burns to her legs, has paved the way for similar actions in Britain, according to lawyers.

Some 130 claims are being

made by former residents of Nazareth House children's homes in Aberdeen and Cardonald, alleging they were forced to eat their own vomit, had their hands thrust into boiling water and finger nails cut to the quick.

Evidence that psychological suffering persisted into adult life and damaged earnings are expected to push individual claims into tens of thousands of pounds, according to Cameron Pyle, managing partner at Glasgow-based Ross Harper solicitors, which is representing more than 100 claimants, mostly women.

Alun Michael, the Home

Office Minister, said the Government was considering new legislation in the Crime and Disorder Bill to improve supervision on all organisations entrusted with the care of young people.

Seven nuns, at least two of whom are still alive, were

repeatedly named as serial offenders, as were several lay workers, said Mr Pyle.

After the settlement in Dublin, the Sisters of Mercy, which denied liability but admitted there were burns, apologised for "any lack of courtesy and compassion".

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'The police didn't care who they hit'

Horrors ruined the glory, say peaceful fans

FROM RICHARD DUCE IN ROME AND DANIEL McGRORY

STRIPPED of possessions, bludgeoned and trapped, England fans from all walks of life had bitter memories of their team's night of glory yesterday. As they limped home, supporters including businessmen, barristers and mothers with children blamed "barbaric behaviour" of riot police for provoking the terrace violence. Some still carried the scars.

Many of the victims were on official tours sponsored by the Football Association, yet said they were treated like "criminals and second-class citizens" throughout their stay.

On a warm Roman night, David Woollard, director of an engineering firm in Lincolnshire, should have been celebrating England's success with friends at a Rome pavement bar. Instead, he became a virtual prisoner of Italian officers, locked at the stadium with thousands of others for three hours. At 3am yesterday, he was part of a forlorn human crocodile as supporters trudged four miles from the stadium under the watchful eye of the police. Mr Woollard, whose trip cost £600, said: "I have been abroad with England before but never been treated as badly as this."

The night began with a shambles for many supporters. There were stories of overzealous searches on women, of fans getting into the ground unchecked, of valuables being confiscated and dumped in heaps with no information on how to recover them.

Rachel Morrel, who now lives in Monaco but originally comes from Dorset, said that an expensive cigarette lighter, a gift from her mother, had been taken. "My ticket bore no relation to where I ended up inside the ground. Then the Italians started throwing things like coins at us."

Deborah Bangay, 39, a barrister from London, said her ticket had not been checked before she entered the ground: "Once inside, we weren't even allowed to go to the toilet and it took hours to be let out. It was total overkill. The police behaviour was indefensible."

David Walker, 30, a teacher from Stafford, said: "The whole organisation was a complete shambles. England fans with tickets were being sent to the Italian section."

Fans said that baton charges by police were provoked after a few fans started to respond to missiles first thrown at them by the Italian supporters. Dean Felling, 27,

from Peterborough, said: "The Italian response was outrageous. We were being pelted with coins. When we started giving them some verbal, they just waded into us."

A disabled fan, Bryan Harris, 63, a sales manager for a communications company, said: "The police hit out indiscriminately. They charged us and the guy behind me got knocked down and was hit in the face with a baton. We were shouting for them to stop, but it was relentless."

Mr Harris, of Windlesham, Surrey, who has a club foot following an injury in his youth, said: "People were trying to get out of the way when they parted the crowd, but there was nowhere to go. I was pushed against a fence and my glasses were knocked off."

Jim Tyrrell, 36, a marketing manager from London, said: "It was extremely brutal. The police were clearly terrified and had been wound up to the point where they were treating us as if we were all hoodlums. There were 20 to 30 English fans causing trouble and they should have sorted those out."

Katy Mousinho, her husband Gordon, a company director, and sons James, 13, and John, 11, from Amersham, Buckinghamshire, said they had never been so frightened. Mrs Mousinho said: "I feel my human rights have been violated. They were searching everyone and removing things like belts, keys and coins from English fans."

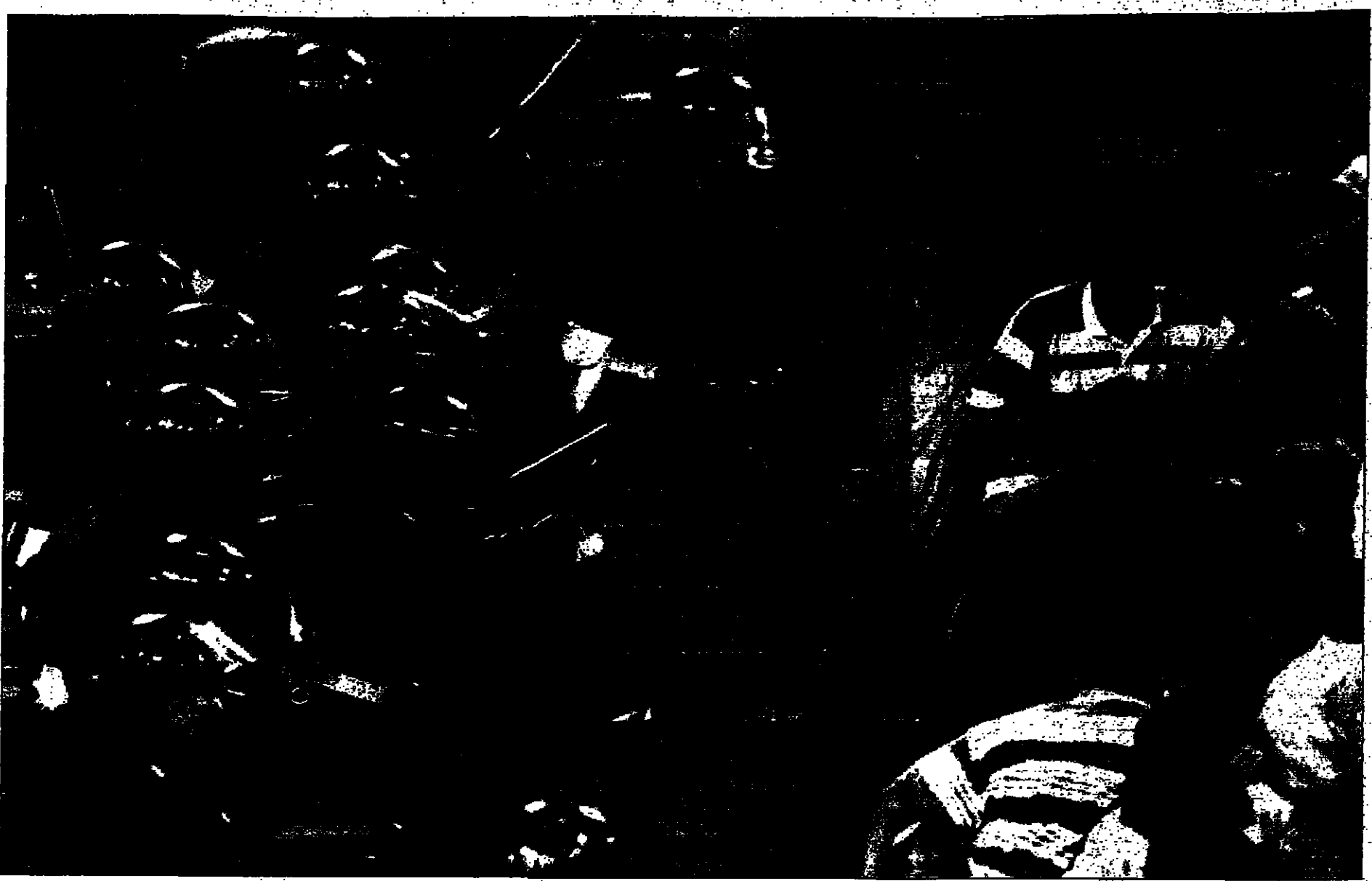
The family were travelling with friends Alistair and Caroline Stewart from Northamptonshire. Mrs Stewart said: "I had bottles of perfume and make-up taken from me. There were families and loads of women, and the police didn't discriminate about who they hit. It was awful." Julie

we were all hoodlums. There were 20 to 30 English fans causing trouble and they should have sorted those out."

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The Stewarts said police hit out indiscriminately



Riot police waded into the supporters. Witnesses said that Italian fans started the trouble, and that many England fans were penalised for the actions of 30 who responded.

O'Malley, 23, and Daljit Khaira, 27, had paid £450 each and were part of a hospitality treat for workers at the London electronics company CHS. Both women were at their first football match and vowed "Never again."

Miss O'Malley said: "As we had gone in, we had to take our shoes and socks off to be searched. Then they took all our belts. After we came out, we just had to take any belt off a pile of about 5,000. No one has come back with their own belt. As we were leaving, the police started charging the crowd after they started singing football songs. It was very narrow, and all I could hear was the sound like a herd of elephants trampling towards me. About 1,000 people came running and I was being trampled. I think I would have died if my friend had not pulled me onto a wall."

Their friend, Paul Sadler, 23, said: "One man had his glasses pushed into his face and he was bleeding from a cut to his head. The paramedics had to push the police out of the way."

Supporters also described what they say were unprovoked attacks by police wielding batons as they were drinking in the city centre. Mark Randall, 33, a chef, from Poole, Dorset, who works in Antibes, France, said: "I was telling the police in Italian to calm down, but they hit me. I was down with my hands over my head but every policeman who went past hit me."

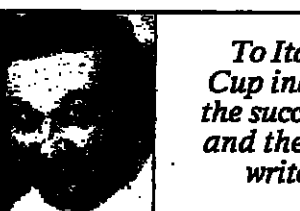
Italy sees a victory for Blair and Spice Girls

FOR most Italians, Saturday night's World Cup qualifying match was not about the behaviour of England's feared football hooligans, or how the Italian police handled them. It was not even about the technicalities of Cesare Maldini's team strategy.

It was a metaphor for Italy's political disarray and its angst as Europe heads for several "dates with destiny", from the single currency to the millennium. Italy fears it is being left behind, while the Britain of Tony Blair forges ahead.

"In both Britain and Italy the Left are in power," *La Repubblica* observed yesterday. "But Blair's Britain is no longer represented by the blacked faces of striking miners: it is vibrant, dynamic, and symbolised by the Spice Girls. The Government of Professor Romano Prodi by contrast is in the grip of earthquakes, apocalyptic predictions and a hot autumn of discontent", a reference to Signor Prodi's offer to resign after the desertion of his Communist parliamentary allies over a well-received budget designed to help Italy qualify for the single currency.

Hooliganism was not ignored. "They were 700 English barbarians and they caused panic and mayhem," reported *Il Messaggero*. "They looked like bullet-headed Gaiuzas, shirts undone and stomachs exposed to the air, like creatures from some nightmarish canvas by Fran-



To Italians, their World Cup inadequacy symbolises the success of the British Left and the failure of their own, writes Richard Owen

cis Bacon. It was an orgy of fist fights, sweat and tears, and they left the city centre looking as if a demolition squad had been through it."

The police were applauded for their "hard work" in dealing with "drunken beasts in full war cry, shouting abuse at all Italians in a hailstorm of broken bottles."

But whereas English hooligans might in the past have been seen as symbols of rampant right-wing nationalism, this time they were viewed as a curiosity irrelevant to the success story of "Blair's Britain". Most newspapers devoted one page at most to the disorder, and four or five pages to the match and its meaning.

The mood in the bars of Rome had been subdued even before the match began, as if a run of bad luck — the earthquakes in Umbria, the threat to Italy's chances of joining the euro — had damaged national self-confidence. I watched the match in a bar with a group of young Italians, and even after they had sunk a good deal of red wine there was only passing excitement when Dino Baggio nearly scored in the second

half. The final whistle was greeted with resigned shrugs. "It is as if Italy is collapsing on all fronts" *La Repubblica* said: "Assisi is falling down, so is the Government, and we can't get into either Europe or the World Cup. We only have the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to the left-wing dramatist Dario Fo to console us, and even that is seen as off-side by many on the Right."

Most of Italy's political leaders were at the match, with the Government represented by Walter Veltroni, whose culture portfolio includes sport. He looked grim. He was perhaps contemplating not only Italy's fading chances of reaching the World Cup, but also his own chances of staying in office.

Britain's Chancellor was among the English contingent. So was Geoffrey Robinson, his Treasury colleague, in whose Tuscany villa the Blair take summer holidays. *Corriere della Sera* said: "It was a contest between two Lefts. Our team, led by Veltroni, was no match for the team at the Olympic Stadium led by Gordon Brown, Jack Cunningham and Tony Banks."



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Famous first words begin a literary clash

IT IS the best of lines, it is the worst of lines. The opening words of a piece of literature can be a nightmare for writers who fear that the reader may never read on.

Now the opening lines of some of the greatest writers have entered the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations* as a subject in their own right. Yesterday the publishers admitted that the list is likely to cause heated debate among those affronted that personal favourites have been left out.

The list has just 41 entries. They are not claimed to be the best quotes, but the openings that have become part of the collective consciousness, often used in speeches and works by other people. Elizabeth Knowles, managing editor of *Oxford Quotation Dictionary*, said: "Of course, people will always say, 'What about this one?' But that is what makes this kind of work both frustrating and exciting. It is potentially endless." The com-

List leaves out
Chandler and
Hamlet, but
that is just for
openers, says
Kathryn Knight

plishers went through a huge computer database of quotations to draw up the list, from Virgil and Chaucer through to George Orwell and Anthony Burgess. Shakespeare provides two entries, while the anonymous "Once upon a time" dating back to 1595, supplants notable authors and playwrights. Keats delivers a trio of memorable favourites. Ms Knowles said that the two Shakespeare choices — "If music be the food of love, play on" from *Twelfth Night* and

"O for a muse of fire, that would ascend, The brightest heaven of invention" from *Henry V* — may sit badly with those who prefer "Now is the winter of our discontent" from *Richard III* and "Who's there?" from *Hamlet*.

"Shakespeare is enormously quotable and much quoted, but we had to be careful because you could end up with a whole column of Shakespeare quotes," she said. "We chose the ones we felt were most universally referred to."

"We looked for evidence that they were high profile in different areas of life. This is a list not just for writers, but people who just love reading. It is very solidly rooted in what the nation likes."

Last night Sue Arnold, author of *A Burmese Legacy*, said her favourite first line was from *The Good Soldier* by Ford Madox Ford. It is: "This is the greatest story I've ever heard." It is not in the list.

John Bayley, the retired Oxford English don married to the novelist Dame Iris Murdoch, expressed surprise that Raymond Chandler had not made the list, but said that personal idiosyncratic favourites may clash with national favourites.

"My wife's favourite opening is to *Hamlet*, but it would not be 'everybody's choice. I think one of my great preferences is the opening to Harriette Wilson's memoirs: 'I shall not say why and how I became, at the age of fifteen, the mistress of the Earl of Craven.' Wilson is included in the list."

The dictionary also proffers a list of nine closing lines, including those from *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Animal Farm* and *Gone With the Wind*. Professor Bayley also suggested another category: "Perhaps they should look for a collection of openings that don't make you want to read any further. I'm sure one could find plenty from modern fiction."



Channel 4's panel: Salman Rushdie, Martin Amis, Gore Vidal, Lisa Jardine and Melvyn Bragg. Mr Vidal said students prefer videos

Bright minds ignore books, says Vidal

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

ON THE eve of Britain's most prestigious literary award, Gore Vidal, the American novelist and essayist, has claimed that even the brightest students no longer read or show an interest in literature.

His gloomy predictions on the future of the novel came in a pre-Booker Prize discussion with the novelists Salman Rushdie and Martin Amis, and Lisa Jardine, the writer and academic.

Booker judges are meeting today to choose a winner from the six shortlisted authors — Bernard MacLaverty, Arundhati Roy, Mick Jackson, Jim Crace, Tim Parks and Madeleine St. John. Their verdict will be announced at a televised gala dinner at Guildhall tomorrow night.

This year's shortlist is notable for the omission of some hotly-tipped authors, including Ian McEwan whose book *Enduring Love* received good reviews. The prize, worth £20,000, guarantees sales and instant literary recognition for the winner.

Mr Vidal, a former lecturer at Harvard, said America's best young minds were generally more interested in Hollywood movies than the novel. "They really don't read novels, and they don't read much of anything and they have very little interest in literary figures," he said.

He said that in dull moments during his lectures, the mention of a film title would instantly provoke lively debate. "I'd say, 'Has anyone here seen *The Doors*?' and the whole room would become vibrant and they'd take sides on this movie that had just come out. They don't

know how to read a novel. So they would rather get a video cassette of Peter Greenaway and look at that and feel they're communing with high art."

He added there was little prospect of the novel's recovery in the face of film, video and television. "I'm not sure that you can bring the novel back and I'm not sure that it's perhaps desirable."

The discussion, *The Bookers on Four*, was chaired by Melvyn Bragg and will be shown on Channel 4 tonight. Mr Vidal's views were attacked by the rest of the panel, who argued that the novel was still relevant.

Martin Amis, who has never won the Booker Prize, said Mr Vidal was describing an American situation. "The difference is the Atlantic Ocean," he said. "If you talk around the capitals of the world people will say that British fiction is the strongest in the world."

Lisa Jardine, who has lectured on the novel in Britain and America, said: "You only have to go on the Tube in the morning and you'll see people reading real novels." Mr Rushdie said: "People are not stopping reading novels. They still expect them to shape their lives."

Amis, whose latest book *Night Train* is set in Chicago, said: "It would purely be because I feel I need America as a subject."

Mr Amis does not want to move until his two sons finish their schooling, in about five years' time.

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BBC to close two libraries of classic stock

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to sell 60,000 books and close two of its lending libraries as part of John Birt's moves to streamline resources.

Loan stock will be removed from Broadcasting House and Bush House, home of the World Service, during the next six months. Staff say that it represents a "further dismantling of BBC heritage". Much of the archive stock has been in the BBC libraries since it was established more than 70 years ago.

A corporation source said: "A lot of our stock we have in triplicate and it isn't necessary. There are umpteen biographies on minor members of the Royal Family or dead sporting heroes. How many books on Prince Michael of Kent do you need?"

But a BBC worker at Bush House said the move was nonsensical. "All we hear about is efficiency, but for people working in central London a library out towards Shepherd's Bush is about as inefficient and as inconvenient as it could get. The needs of staff at the World Service are totally different to the needs of people working at Television Centre."

A BBC spokeswoman said: "We have about 90,000 titles in total. Of those we will lose about 60,000, but we are talking about some very old books that are hardly ever accessed or used. It is no more than the annual throw-out rate of a normal lending library and if it raises money for the BBC then all well and good."

"Increasing numbers of staff are using electronic databases now, but we will maintain our reference section. In the future, where CD-Roms are available we will probably buy it in that form in preference to reference books. Don't forget that close by to Broadcasting House and Bush House there are major public libraries and they are about ten times bigger."

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Police attack training after divers' deaths

Fast-track procedures learnt at scuba diving centre may be a factor in fatalities. Reports by Stephen Farrell

POLICE yesterday launched a fierce attack on training standards within the sport of scuba diving after an investigation into the deaths of three inexperienced divers at one centre this year.

Inspector Stephen Hanson, a former head of Leicestershire police underwater search unit, claims to have found disturbing similarities between the fatalities at the Stoney Cove National Inland Diving Centre near Hinckley, Leicestershire.

He criticised the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the world's largest and most influential diver training body, for running five-day intensive courses which allow students to begin diving unsupervised after four sessions with instructors.

Other experts, who last night backed his attack, fear the sport's governing body, the British Sub-Aqua Club, is also starting short courses. Last month it began a five-day course aimed at holiday-makers.

Mr Hanson, 45, a diver of 24 years' experience who holds the Health and Safety Execu-



Hanson saw similarities between the deaths

tive's diver training certificate, has carried out investigations into all diving deaths in Leicestershire for more than 16 years. He began to notice inexperience as a factor in deaths four years ago.

He said: "The common experience for people to get diving qualifications before PADI came on the scene was one of the many diving clubs in the country. Progressing to sports diver standard took

many, many months. Then along came PADI with a fast-track and what appeared to be a very professional system of getting you into water in a very short period of time and of course it is very attractive.

"What the PADI system allows is for one diver who has just qualified to dive as a partner with another who has just qualified. The system is wrong in my opinion."

Last year 15 people died while diving recreationally in Britain, according to the British Sub-Aqua Club. A recent report for the Health and Safety Executive estimated the risk to be one death per 5,000 divers each year, similar to other adventure sports.

Stoney Cove is a former granite quarry widely regarded by divers and safety watchdogs as one of the safest sites in the country. Although it has seen 16 deaths in 15 years, more than 100,000 dives are made there each year; it has trained rescuers, a fast boat and recompression chamber.

The basic PADI "Open Water" course, a series of dives under supervision and lectures using videos and text-



Divers at Stoney Cove in Leicestershire. Police have criticised a system that allows two newly-qualified divers to go out on their own

books, can be completed in three to five days at a cost of £100 plus cost of trips and hiring equipment. Those who qualify may then dive with a partner of equal experience.

PADI, founded in the US in 1967, has schools all over the world and opened a UK headquarters two years ago. In 1996 it awarded 728,295 certificates worldwide and 41,420 in the UK and Ireland, compared with 7,512 (UK and Ireland) in 1991.

Its quality assurance manager, Eric Albinsson, yesterday pointed out that the organisation funded safety research and helped establish minimum industry training standards. "Any time you increase the number of people

taking part in an activity there will be an increase in incidents. All we can do is point to our safety record," he said.

Dave Glover, 42, from Fareham, Hampshire, a BSAC advanced instructor with 25 years' experience, said he feared standards might slip. "When I learned to dive it took a minimum of six months to get the basics. Now PADI do it in five days."

Alan King, director of the company which owns Stoney Cove, said: "All the divers who have been involved in an incident here, from a minor hiccup to fatal accidents, have either been a qualified diver or in the minority of cases a diver under training with a suitably qualified person."

THE CATALOGUE OF DEATHS AT STONEY COVE

THERE have been 16 deaths in the past 15 years at Stoney Cove. They include: 1. October 4, 1997. Patrick Scanlon, 37, from Leicester. Believed to have run out of air and drowned. 2. September 3, 1997. Glyn Beeson, 48, from Staffordshire. Drowned after complaining he could not keep up with two friends. 3. April 15, 1997. Lynne Coughlin, 49, from Buckinghamshire. Became separated from husband and sank on their first unsupervised dive. March 21, 1996. Member of

visiting diving club died after getting into difficulty. July 2, 1995. David Richardson, 40, from Leeds, drowned and suffered internal injuries after he surfaced too quickly. February, 1995. Lester Smith, 19, from Walsall, sank to bottom after sharing air supply with instructor. April 15, 1994. Adelle Barry, 18, from Bedford, ran out of air while diving with another member of the British Sub-Aqua Club. August, 1992. Neil Rhodes, 26, from Watford, died

after being brought up from 30 metres by friends. June 16, 1991. Andrew Brimble, 43, from Bristol, drowned on advanced diving course. April 28, 1991. David Piper, 24, from Romford, died on training session on his first open water dive. February 20, 1989. Maureen Knight, 44, from Lancashire, a novice diver, suffered a heart attack underwater. March 2, 1986. Steve Cullen, 23, from Manchester, died after being trapped under ice.

Icy peril lurking in British waters

TWENTY minutes in the depths of a cold, grey, water-filled Midlands quarry in October is enough to convince anyone that diving in freezing British waters is a different world from the clear blue lagoons where many learn each year on foreign holidays.

As a PADI novice with just the basic "open water" qualification and only seven dives under my belt, it would have been foolhardy to attempt such a radical change in

conditions without an experienced instructor present (Stephen Farrell writes).

But that is what many inexperienced divers do. Patrick Scanlon died in Stoney Cove a week earlier, having logged just four dives, while swimming with an equally inexperienced partner.

Stoney Cove, a horseshoe-shaped 12.5-acre former granite quarry near Hinckley, Leicestershire, is fed by a natural spring and has a series of shelves, ranging from 7 to 35 metres deep.

The water remains constant at 3C to 4C at 35 metres and visibility can range from eight metres down to just one.

I was given a thorough briefing by instructor David Brady, who checked my equipment, and supervised me. I was not allowed to go beyond the shallowest area.

Up to 400 divers can gather on a busy day. Most believe the centre is a safe place to dive, but acknowledge that it is deeper than many others.

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By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The survey found that more than 40 per cent of the experts

Mark Solon, director of the witness training company Bond Solon which carried out the survey, said the full results — based on some 1,500 experts — would be outlined at their conference on November 7. But these first findings

He said that there might be occasional cases where solicitors asked for "inappropriate" changes, but that would be rare.



The search: officers from the RSPCA and fire service at the quarry

AN OVERWEIGHT terrier had a

"She was living off her fat," her owner, Rachel Mann, 28, said. "Before all this, Casper was so fat. That's why she got stuck, but it also saved her life. It was only when she had lost all the weight that she

Mrs Mann said: "She is very skinny. We're feeding her glucose and Wcetabix." The dog is thought to have drunk rainwater to avoid dehydration. Inspector Thompson said: "I have never known a dog survive so long without food and daylight."

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BY DANIEL MCGRORTY

THE coroner expected to hold an inquest into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has spoken of his frustration that he will not be able to call witnesses from abroad and will have to rely on the French police inquiry into the crash.

John Burton, Coroner of the Queen's Household, described his limited powers as "a ludicrous situation" yesterday. "There's still uncertainty as to when or where any inquest into the crash will take place."

The coroner's outspoken remarks came after renewed controversy involving Mohammed Al Fayed, who stands by his claim that he was told the Princess's last words. Michael Cole, his press spokesman, said yesterday that Mr Al Fayed, whose son Dodi also died in the accident, had "acted properly throughout and would continue to act properly to make sure that the facts are known". He refused

A row has broken out between broadcasters over who had the right to transmit coverage of the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales, from Westminster Abbey. The BBC has asked Reuters Television why it transmitted BBC coverage to its clients around the world, apparently without authority. Reuters Television said there had been an exchange of letters

to say whether Mr Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, would contact the coroner with his information.

Dr Burton said that he had no plans to call Mr Al Fayed but said that he would be open to "relevant" evidence.

A claim that the Princess had been conscious after the crash would be of crucial importance to any inquest. Mr Al Fayed's claim that a nurse

passed on the Princess's last words was dismissed by French hospital authorities, who insist that she was unconscious from the moment the car crashed.

The main obstacle to any a British inquiry will be the reliance on the French inquiry without the power to question those who gathered the evidence.

No inquest is likely to be held in Britain until the French examining magistrate has finished his inquiry and decided whether to bring criminal charges.

Dr Burton said: "I have no power to call a witness from overseas. I can only deal with what anyone wants to tell me in England . . . and if you can't get corroboration . . . where are you?"

"If Dodi and Diana had been buried in France there would be no inquest. It is purely the fact that they were brought back to England. It is a ludicrous situation."

10p tax rate 'won't get people off benefit'

REFORMING the benefits system would be a more effective way of getting people into work than introducing a 10p starting rate of income tax, researchers claim today.


Their report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, examines the effectiveness of various options, including the planned national minimum wage, in tackling poverty and encouraging people to come off state benefits and into work. A minimum wage of £3.75 an hour would lift more than 300,000 workers out of poverty — saving up to £1.2 billion a year through lower spending on benefits and increased tax and national insurance revenue, the report says.

But introducing a 10p starting rate of income tax — one of Labour's aims — "would do almost nothing" to reduce poverty or increase work incentives. The report, by a team at Bath University, concludes that a package of benefits measures, including increases in Family Credit for younger children and lower social housing rents, would combine far more effectively with the minimum wage. (PA News)

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Almighty Kohl faces meek revolt from party's Wild Bunch

The Wild Bunch — the nickname for unruly young rebels in the Christian Democratic Union — are promising to give Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, a bumpy ride at the party's annual conference which opens in Leipzig today.

Herr Kohl will certainly emerge again, health permitting, as the party's choice for the Chancellery in next year's election. But his personal, almost feudal, hold on his party's placemen in the provinces is crumbling. After 15 years as Chancellor, 24 years as party leader, a sense of *fin de règne* hangs over him and the 1,000 delegates packing the conference hall. This is

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

the last conference before the election and so the questions naturally pile up: is the Chancellor still a vote winner? Who can replace him? Who could be a suitable

partner if the CDU wins? What happens next? Predictably, these questions will be repressed. The Chancellor knows his way around party conferences and he knows that delegates respond best to nuggets of information, deep fried in high-fat optimism.

The Wild Bunch will challenge him — in the form of amendments to party resolutions — on the need for modernisation. And so the leader will hard his speech with promises about 2000: how he will make Germany competitive, how women will be brought more quickly up to the ladder.

The young generation in the party wants much more —

real movement on taxes (if necessary, increasing petrol tax) and pensions — but since they also want to win the election, they will present their demands in the manner of polite sixth-formers.

The conference has to strike a balance between relatively open discussion — everybody is agreed that the party needs a sharper pre-election profile — and shoulder-to-shoulder unity. The Wild Bunch, politicians in their thirties and forties from the Saarland, Lower Saxony, Hesse and the youth wing, have been busily briefing the press before the conference, perhaps aware

they will be muzzled in Leipzig. Some want Herr Kohl to step down as chairman after the election next September, win or lose. Most want the party to be open to a new partner, which means the Social Democrats, and they talk of a grand reforming coalition. Such an alliance would probably have to dump Herr Kohl. But all this, they grudgingly admit, is mere conjecture, a way of signifying that the young generation of the CDU is still capable of using its brains while nonetheless swearing loyalty to the Great Leader.

The central issue for the party — and therefore the one that will not be discussed — is

the differing assessments of Germany's economic and social health. Only when there is a consistent answer to this riddle — is Germany sick? — will the party be able to work out programmes that go beyond the 1998 election. And only then will Germany be able to judge if Christian democracy, which is withering elsewhere in Europe, has relevance to the country.

The Chancellor continues to believe that the present consensus model only needs fine-tuning. His advisers are quick to point out how fickle is the so-called Asian model of capitalism, how US companies, though critical of Germany, still invest heavily

in the country. The Chancellor squeezing into the new small Mercedes at the Frankfurt Motor Show recently emphasised how German car companies are thriving, adjusting work times and managing levels in consultation with unions and staying highly competitive. The economy is picking up well.

Herr Kohl's strength is that the Social Democrats mainly agree with his view of the world. They would like more energy applied to creating jobs — still at a postwar record high — and some egalitarian rhetoric divides the party, but they are essen-

tially on the same, conservative track. The much-trumpeted modernisation debate is phoney; neither the Chancellor, nor his rivals and least of all the electorate want radical change. Isolated within the CDU, however, there is a group, disciples of Wolfgang Schäuble, its parliamentary leader, that wants a shake-up of the country and the party.

Since they know their ideas can only be put into practice with a big majority, or a stable coalition, and since some of their ambitions would send German voters scattering for cover, they are quietly waiting for the end of the Kohl era, even for a lost election.

EU urges Britain to show solidarity with euro launch

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN will be awarded high marks by the European Union today for progress in bringing its economy into line for qualifying for economic and monetary union and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will use the occasion to trumpet the merits of the Government's new plans to tackle unemployment.

With just over six months before the founding states are chosen for the single currency, finance ministers are to review Britain's strong record in achieving "convergence" with the Maastricht criteria.

An expected budget deficit of 2 per cent and national debt of about 54 per cent of gross domestic product put Britain well under the Maastricht ceilings that are causing so much agony for Germany, France and especially Italy.

Overshadowing the meeting in Luxembourg today is the political crisis in Rome, triggered by the need for austerity cuts. The fall of the left-wing Government of Romano Prodi has thrown into doubt Italy's chances of qualifying.

While the EU recognises that Tony Blair is almost certain to exercise Britain's opt-out from the euro at the

end of the year, ministers will make clear to Mr Brown the advantages they see for all sides if Britain were to signal an intention to embrace the currency soon after its launch, in January 1999.

"The euro zone would be truly impregnable if Britain came in," a European Commission official said, voicing the conventional wisdom in Brussels. "It's hard to see Tony Blair sitting out on the touch-line for long if he wants to be a big player in Europe." EU officials have taken note of studies emerging from London claiming that Britain could do well by joining the single currency at the outset.

Britain will, however, be told it needs to stabilise sterling's exchange rates against other European currencies. Sterling's fluctuating record is a possible impediment to joining the euro because the Maastricht treaty requires two years of prior membership of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), or at least the same period shadowing it.

The continental states are determined to show that the Italian crisis is not something what they see as unstoppable momentum towards the euro. All other states except Greece

are expected to qualify, though Sweden and Denmark are choosing to stay out. Optimism over the euro is being fuelled by rampant economic growth and by the way central banks joined the Bundesbank in co-ordinating a rise in interest rates last week.

It is no secret that Germans would be relieved to see Italy fail to reach the starting line because that would quell fears of a "soft" euro. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, pleaded at the weekend for understanding of his country's emotional attachment to the strong mark.

While the euro is deemed to be on course, concern is rising over the continent's failure to curb unemployment — now 18 million jobless. With an EU "jobs summit" a month away, Mr Brown is to outline his Employment Action Plan and offer it as a model. Britain's diminishing unemployment rate, now less than 7 per cent, is the envy of the EU's big states. But they harbour strong misgivings over the Government's emphasis on "flexibility" in labour markets and its fierce approach to cutting welfare payments.

Janet Dush, page 48



King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia flanked by other members of the Spanish Royal Family at the reopening of Madrid's Royal Theatre

Madrid savours night at the opera

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

EUROPE's third largest opera house — Madrid's Royal Theatre — has raised its curtain for the first time in 72 years.

A glittering first night on Saturday, presided over by King Juan Carlos and most of the Spanish Royal Family, marked the end of a chaotic nine-year refurbishment of the 1,750-seat theatre and its revival as an opera house.

For the past 72 years it has served as a concert hall, ballroom, the lower house of parliament — and a mun-

itions dump. The double bill on the opening night was strictly Spanish, opera and ballet by the country's greatest 20th-century composer, Manuel de Falla. Tenor Jaime Aragall and soprano María José Montiel were the star attractions in Falla's opera *La Vida Breve* (The Short Life). Aida Gómez was the principal ballerina in *El Sombrero de Tres Picos* (The Three-Cornered Hat). The scenery designed by Picasso for Diaghilev's production by the Ballets Russes in 1919 was reproduced for the occasion.

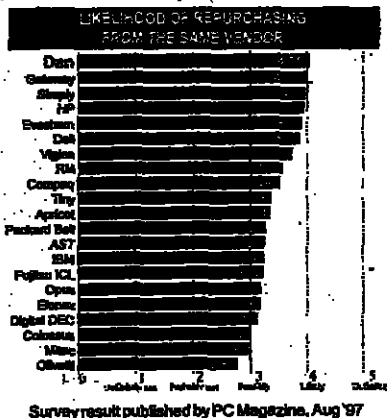
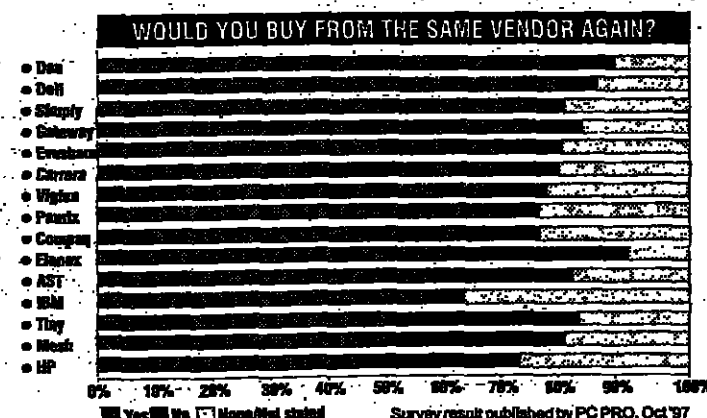
The reopening of the opera house brought relief to music lovers in the

Spanish capital, who have been without a first-class concert auditorium since it closed in 1989. It was to have reopened in 1992 but bickering over money, architectural errors and slow progress pushed the completion date back by five years. They also saw the original bill triple to £100 million.

The opera house took 32 years to build. It opened in 1850 and ceased to stage opera in 1925.

Esperanza Aguirre, the Culture Minister, is encouraging domestic talent and digging deep into what she claims is a treasure trove of relatively unknown Spanish compositions.

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Doctors declare Vichy shame

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE head of the leading French doctors' association has apologised for the "shameful" role played by many health practitioners under the collaborationist Vichy regime in the Second World War.

In the wake of national soul-searching linked to the war crimes trial of Maurice Papon, the alleged Nazi collaborator, the medical profession has joined Catholic bishops, police and lawyers in trying to atone for the moral shortcomings of the Vichy era.

Dr Bernard Glorion, president of the French Order of Doctors representing 180,000 members, said many members of his profession had backed Vichy laws banning Jews from practising medicine, and called for medical archives to be opened to historians to allow a full accounting.

Under anti-Semitic Vichy legislation, most Jews were barred from working as doctors, and many were betrayed by their French counterparts. A 1941 law restricted the number of Jewish doctors to 2 per cent of the profession.

"I want nothing to be forgotten from those dark hours," Dr Glorion said.

Queen's tour of India turns sour over Kashmir

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Queen arrived in India last night to a hostile reception in much of the national press, reflecting suspicions — denied in London — that she is being used to promote a hidden political agenda in the West for a solution to the Kashmir crisis.

It promises to be a tense week, marked by the perception that Britain is pro-Pakistan over Kashmir and a widespread sense that royal visits are outmoded. Some left-wing politicians have questioned why the head of the former imperial power should be invited to share in celebrations to mark 50 years of independence.

There are suspicions in Indian political circles that Western powers are conspiring to force India to drop its objection to international mediation over Kashmir. A statement by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that Britain seeks a Kashmir solution is perceived in Delhi as precariously close to Pakistan's policy favouring international mediation.

The Queen urged both sides to end their disagreements — to the delight of Pakistan, which seeks constantly to internationalise the Kashmir issue. India opposes any outside "interference" in what it insists is an internal matter. One newspaper complained

that Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, had spent the better part of the Queen's visit to Pakistan last week acquainting her and Mr Cook with his country's position on Kashmir.

"The Labour Government has decided to exert pressure on India and the beginning is being made with the supposedly non-political visit of the apolitical monarch," an article in the *Asian Age* declared. "India is not falling over itself



Sikh protesters want the Queen to apologise

to receive the Queen, contrary to the expectations of the British Government. The monarchy ... cannot really hope to revive its sagging image by conjuring up visions of the defeated Raj."

The paper insisted that the visit of the Queen was not a goodwill mission. "If it was, the Queen and Robin Cook would have spoken differently in Pakistan. The Queen would not have stuck her imperial nose into what is not her business and Cook would have refrained from his totally uncalculated remarks on Kashmir."

Security is intense after a series of small bomb explosions in Delhi on Friday. The Punjabi city of Amritsar will be practically brought to a standstill tomorrow when the Queen visits the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine. She will lay a wreath at Jallianwala Bagh, a small park where General Reginald Dyer's troops massacred 379 peaceful demonstrators in 1919. This is likely to satisfy most of those who have been demanding an apology.

The press has generally found nothing good to say about the visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh — indeed, it sometimes seems to be straining to find fault. The



Gohar Ayub Khan, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, bids farewell to the royal couple in Islamabad yesterday

Indian Express carried a front-page article, headlined "Who comes first, the Queen of England or the President of India?" This concerned a perceived "insult" on invitation cards to an exhibition at the National Museum to be attended by the Queen and the President, in which her name comes before his. This was a "gaffe", *The Times of India*

carried a story headlined "India, UK ties at low ebb as Queen Elizabeth's visit nears". The article complained that under Kumar Gajral, the Prime Minister, had not been given the courtesy of an invitation to land in London en route to the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh later this month.

It went on to declare that

trade between the two countries was not expanding and drew attention to calls within the Labour Party for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine whether it should be part of India or Pakistan. "Even before Tony Blair became Prime Minister, Labour leaders had betrayed pro-Pakistan leanings," it said.

The Telegraph, published in

Calcutta, noted that the Duke of Edinburgh would not be offered a "fat, overfed tiger to shoot", as he reportedly was in 1961 by the Maharajah of Jaipur.

□ Dhaka: At least 20 people were killed and more than 500 injured when a tornado swept through a town near the Bangladeshi capital, officials said. (Reuters)

British offers £5m to speed Rwanda genocide inquiries

FROM DAVID ORR IN KIGALI

FOR more than a year, Claver Nkulikiyinka has been in prison, facing the death penalty on a charge of involvement in the Rwandan genocide. But although he has appeared in court four times, there is no indication when he will be tried in a country where justice is grinding to a halt.

Since trials began in Rwanda at the start of the year, more than 200 people have been convicted of participation in the murder of nearly half a million people in 1994. Nearly 100 have received the death penalty but no executions have yet taken place.

Mr Nkulikiyinka, a veterinary surgeon, had a lawyer but he is also now in prison facing similar charges.

"A number of people were killed in our area," said Mr Nkulikiyinka, dressed in the prison system's uniform of pink pyjamas. "But I am innocent. I was hiding in a neighbour's house at the time. Some neighbours accused me. There's no justice here. It's already been decided that we're guilty."

Mr Nkulikiyinka is one of 8,377 inmates at Gikondo prison in Kigali. The jail is a complex of former warehouses which belonged to Felicien Kabuga, a businessman sought by the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal

for Rwanda as one of the genocide's alleged masterminds and financiers.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who visited the prison last week, promised £5 million more aid to Rwanda. Some of this aid will go to the justice sector but none for the building of more detention centres.

Although overcrowded, Gikondo is by no means the worst of Rwanda's prisons, whose population now stands at 128,000. Under the weight of such numbers, the justice system is barely able to function. The rate at which cases are being heard is slower than the rate of arrests and already detention centres are full to capacity. A confession procedure, which certain categories of defendants pleading guilty are given reduced sentences, has failed to make the impact expected.

"I'd like the trials to be much faster," says Gerald Gahima, secretary-general of the Justice Ministry. "But we're going as fast as we can. We're looking for money to build prisons but donors are not enthusiastic."

□ Report rejected: Rwanda has dismissed a human rights report on alleged massacres of Rwandan refugees in the former Zaire as deserving "no serious attention".

Angolan troops in Congo oil zone clash

ANGOLAN troops, apparently backing Congolese guerrillas, clashed with Congo government soldiers yesterday around Cabinda, both countries reported. The Angolan-occupied enclave borders Congo.

The Republic of Congo said that President Lissouba's home area in the economically strategic south had been attacked from Cabinda.

But the Angolan Defence Ministry said Congolese troops had crossed the border to launch air and ground attacks. Incursions into the enclave since September 29 have left several people dead, the ministry said.

Congo's military high command said Angolan troops backing rebels had attacked the country's south, but said they had been pushed back. "They were heading towards Louloa but were scattered by airborne attacks," it said, referring to one of two southern towns that guerrillas claimed to have taken.

The attack marks a potentially dangerous situation in the four-month conflict, given the economic significance of the oil-producing Congolese south. The Angolan troop involvement follows reports that Angola's rebel Unita forces were backing Mr Lissouba. (Reuters, AFP)

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Clinton takes trade bloc dream to Brazil

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRESIDENT CLINTON, on his first trip to South America, will invoke his old dream of a pan-American trading bloc from Alaska to Argentina, while calling for action against corruption in the region which has hindered White House initiatives. He arrives today in Brazil after an overnight stay in Venezuela, on a week-long trip to the continent. It is the first presidential visit to the region since George Bush attended the Rio Earth Summit in 1990. Mr Clinton's aim is to celebrate South America's "quiet and impressive revolution", in the words of Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser. But the trip is also driven by the fear that the United States may find it increasingly hard to influence one of the fastest growing markets for its goods, and that Brazil or Argentina will take the lead in setting the region's trade policy.

Mr Clinton's visit has been criticised for being no more than a "photo-opportunity" because he is going with an empty briefcase. To the White House's embarrassment, he leaves without having won crucial "fast-track" authority from Congress to strike trade agreements. The authority, which lapsed recently, would allow him to make pacts with foreign countries and put

them to Congress for a "yes or no" vote without amendment. Without this power, foreign governments will not even bother to sit at the negotiating table with him.

The unexpectedly tough battle with Congress has threatened Mr Clinton's dreams of a continental free trade zone, which seemed achievable after the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico early in his first term. The President now clings to the

hope that he will have fast-track authority in time for a hemispheric summit in Chile in April.

Brazil, which has hopes of steering the region's trade policy, has made clear that it would be content if Mr Clinton lost his battle. "I don't think that this would really cause any sadness in Brazil," Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, the Brazilian Ambassador to Washington, has said.

Mr Clinton risks angering Brazil this week by urging it to

combat corruption, one factor behind Congress's reluctance to renew his powers. Just days before his departure, a diplomatic row broke out over a report by the US Embassy in Brasilia which said corruption was "endemic" in Brazilian culture. The State Department announced at the weekend that "endemic" would be replaced with "widespread".

Hamstrung in promoting economic ties, Mr Clinton will concentrate this week on specific, smaller issues. In Venezuela, a transit route for cocaine from Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, he will sign a "ship rider" accord allowing US drug agents to pursue suspects in Venezuelan waters. In Brazil, he will agree a formal pact to co-operate on education and technology.

"We are a centre for drug money laundering and each day we detect more drug shipments coming through," Miguel Angel Borrelli, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, said yesterday. "We want to take part in a multinational force to tackle this growing problem." President Clinton also wants to designate Argentina a "non-Nato military ally" in recognition, according to Mr Berger, of the country's contribution to 16 recent peacekeeping missions.

Legacy of suspicion

Rio de Janeiro: In the 1970s, the United States backed and funded South American military dictatorships which claimed to be fighting communism (Gabriella Gamini writes). This created a deep anti-American sentiment.

In the 1980s, when most South American countries fell heavily into debt and high inflation, the US regarded the southern continent as a financial risk zone.

But South America's fledgling democracies have transformed their economies, and their 300 million people are seen by some as a sizeable and interesting market for American companies. Mr Clinton showed he was keen on a

"rapprochement" when in 1994 he proposed the creation of a free trade zone extending between Alaska and Tierra del Fuego.

The United States is already a main trading partner for all South American countries, and the creation of a free trade pact is seen by some as an obvious extension of growing trade relations.

However, Brazil has expressed scepticism. President Cardoso said: "We are open to begin negotiations over a future pact, but are worried about not getting a fair deal when it comes to competing against American companies whose technology is far more sophisticated."



The Clintons leave the White House yesterday on their way to South America

Town seeks to weed out diehard smokers

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

"PSSST," got a cigarette?" could soon become a recurrent phrase in Winthrop, Massachusetts, should the town council of this tiny seaside conurbation vote next week to ban the sale of tobacco.

It is already forbidden to smoke in Winthrop in all places but private homes, and the impending ban on sales would make the town — population 18,000 — the first in America to institute a form of prohibition that mirrors the alcohol-related "dry" laws still found in some parts of the country.

The move to ban tobacco sales in Winthrop is the brainchild of Ralph Sirinelli, a member of the town's Board of Health and a crusading former smoker. He has considerable support and the motion is expected to go through with ease.

Opposition comes primarily from the town's merchants. Cigarettes account for at least 15 per cent of all sales at local convenience stores, and shop-owners fear that they will be forced to close if people are driven to make their tobacco purchases in neighbouring towns. Citing the laws which prohibit restraint of trade, a group of businessmen has threatened to challenge the constitutionality of any ban in the state's courts.

Paul Luzzetta, the proprietor of Sweet's Liquor Mart, said: "Cigarettes are only about 10 per cent of my business, but if people have to leave Winthrop to buy them, they'll buy their beer, wine and lottery tickets elsewhere too."

Older and wiser Hillary organises new lease of life at 50

HILLARY CLINTON sees her 50th birthday later this month, soon after the departure of her only child for university, as a turning point allowing her to return to a high-profile role promoting her favourite social projects.

"Turning 50 doesn't bother me," one of the nation's most famous baby boomers says. But "realising that I'm a half-century old — that's different".

She will celebrate her October 26 birthday with a gala in her hometown of Chicago, and a visit to all her childhood haunts. But the

First Lady plans a campaigning role after big celebration, writes Bronwen Maddox

festivities — a fireworks extravaganza is planned — "make me feel awkward", she said in weekend interviews, before leaving on the week-long tour of Latin America.

Mrs Clinton added that she was coping better than her husband with the "empty nest syndrome" since their daughter Chelsea started at Stanford University last month. President Clinton, who shares with

his daughter a taste for staying up late, badly misses chatting with her after Hillary had gone to bed.

To fill the gap, Mrs Clinton is planning a new series of campaigns to highlight humanitarian and social projects in which she has a particular interest. Later this month, the White House will hold a high-profile conference on child care. That will be followed by an

initiative to push federal agencies into developing nationwide child care programmes. But the bruising memory of her over-ambitious and abortive plans to reform America's healthcare early in President Clinton's first term is still fresh. She acknowledges these days that "maybe it's easier for people to take reform in small chunks".

The new approach marks a cautious return to the spotlight after the healthcare fiasco, and criticism that she was too forceful a power behind the throne, she adopted a low profile, shielded almost

entirely from media scrutiny during last year's election campaign.

These days, she told *Newsweek* magazine, she is less worried about criticism. "I was very upset at times and couldn't understand why people were so critical and opposed to what I was trying to do, no matter what I did. Then I came to understand that was just part of the political landscape."

She is "proud" of Mr Clinton for getting hearing aids after his recent annual checkup. "I know of a lot of men who can't hear at all, but they are too vain to get hearing aids," she

told *The Washington Times*. She recalled sitting next to President Reagan at a state dinner when he took out his hearing aids for the batteries to be replaced. "He was totally without self-consciousness," she said.

But she added that Mr Clinton was already wistful about the end of his presidency three years from now and that leaving the White House, as one of the youngest former Presidents, would be hard. The Clintons, who celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary on Saturday, planned to travel even more, she said.

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Mr and Mrs Clarkson are aged 53 and 55 and live in Bromley, Kent. For 38 years Mr Clarkson has worked as a self-employed builder, while Mrs Clarkson is a retired teacher. They have three children: Sally, who is 14 and still at school; David who is 18 and just starting at University; and 20 year old Linda who has just announced her engagement. Mr and Mrs Clarkson are moving to an area they have always liked but couldn't previously afford. But now, with two of the children largely independent, they can manage with a smaller house. Their ideal property is priced at £70,000 and they are seeking a £30,000 mortgage. Mr Clarkson's income varies throughout the year so they will use their Personal Choice Mortgage's variable repayment option to help level their cash flow. He also wants to take two months off next year and will be taking a payment holiday at the same time. They will also make good use of the cheque book facility to get David started at University and pay some of Linda's wedding costs.

Mr Broadbent is aged 28 and single. He lives in Bristol and is a self-employed photographer, working in various locations around the country. His income fluctuates. He previously owned a flat which he shared with a friend. He is now looking for a mortgage of £50,000 against a property valued at £65,000. He is attracted to a Personal Choice Mortgage because of its flexible repayment options — he likes the idea of varying his monthly payments with his income, and being able to pay in lump sums from time to time. As a self-employed person borrowing less than 80% of the property value, he finds it particularly helpful not to have to provide income details.

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Is the Earth really getting hotter?

MAN-MADE global warming is increasingly accepted as a fact. The most recent expert to give it his imprimatur is the Government's Chief Scientist, Sir Robert May. Pretty soon, it seems safe to say, politicians will be justifying higher taxes on fuels on the ground that the future of the world depends on cutting the output of carbon dioxide. Yet there are still a few awkward problems with the theory that refuse to go away.

The most striking remains the actual temperature measurements over the past century. At ground level, they have risen by between 0.3 and 0.6C, significantly less than computer models of the atmosphere would have predicted. But even this relatively small increase is thrown into doubt by measurements of the temperature of the lower atmosphere taken by satellites looking down from space, which show no increase at all over the past 20 years, or even a slight decline.

Naturally, the satellite measurements have been subjected to some tough critical analysis. Errors are alleged to have arisen because the temperatures have been measured not by a single satellite but by a series, whose instruments were imperfectly calibrated. When one took over from another errors arose, and actual increases in temperature went undetected. In other words, the satellite data are wrong and can be disregarded.

Not so, say the satellite's champions. Dr John Christy, of the University of Alabama, and Dr Roy Spencer of the American space agency NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Alabama. In a recent issue of *Nature*, they rebut the criticisms by pointing out that not only have careful intercalibrations between the satellites proved that they are measuring the same thing, but that the satellite



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

temperatures have been confirmed by balloon-borne observations of exactly the same part of the atmosphere. The results, they say, show that the satellite temperatures are accurate to three one hundredths of a degree (0.03C).

So what is going on? Christy and Spencer do not deny that increases in carbon dioxide should have some effect on the Earth's temperature, but they believe that the effect is tiny compared with other processes. Among these is the presence in the atmosphere of water vapour, a far more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, and extremely variable both in space and time. They suggest that the temperature of the lower atmosphere is not determined by the balance between incoming solar radiation and outgoing infra-red radiation, as the models require, but by processes of evaporation and convection which transfer heat to the upper troposphere. Once there, it can more easily escape because it is above the heat-trapping water vapour.

Despite the satellite's inability to detect evidence of global warming, it does show up the fluctuations in temperature caused by volcanic eruptions and the El Niño effect. Infra-red images from satellites also show extremely dry areas of the atmosphere over the Tropics which, the scientists speculate, may be "chimneys" that allow heat to radiate freely into space. The effects of these areas of dry troposphere are not well understood, nor are they effectively incorporated into the computer models of global warming.

In an ideal world, this clash of evidence would be sorted out before we embrace carbon taxes, with all the implications they have for future prosperity. But most experts seem prepared to disregard the satellite data.

Cosmic ray theory is challenged

AT THE risk of disappointing science fiction enthusiasts, a team of physicists has concluded that there are no huge reservoirs of antimatter lurking in far-flung reaches of the Universe. It is obvious that our immediate neighbourhood consists of matter, but is this only a local effect? May be, some cosmologists have speculated, the Big Bang created equal amounts of matter and antimatter, which were then separated so fast by the rapid growth of the Universe that they were never able to annihilate each other completely.

If so, one would expect to see evidence of the annihilation left behind from the very early Universe. An obvious candidate is the glow of gamma rays that pervades the sky. But Andy Cohen, of Boston University, Alvaro de Rujula, of the European Particle Physics Laboratory CERN, and Sheldon Glashow, of Harvard, seem to have scotched the idea in a paper to be published in *Astrophysical Journal*.

They calculate that if the gamma ray glow had been caused by matter-antimatter annihilation, it would be at least five times brighter. The calculation makes it unlikely that an experiment to be flown on the space shuttle in May in search of antimatter cosmic rays will succeed. If it does, the team will have to think again.

Why some birds avoid short cuts

WOODLAND birds go to great trouble to avoid crossing open areas of land, experiments in Canada have shown. They are quite prepared to take a roundabout route even if it is much longer, presumably because sticking to the trees offers them greater protection from hawks.

André Desroches, of Laval University in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, and Susan Hannon, of the University of Alberta, tried to coax a variety of birds across gaps in the forest, ranging from seven metres up to 160 metres by playing them taped bird calls. They found that warblers, chickadees, warblers, kinglets and vireos were happy to cross gaps of up to 30 metres but became increasingly reluctant to do so as the gaps widened. They were eight times more likely to choose a longer, sheltered route than cross a 100-metre gap, for example.

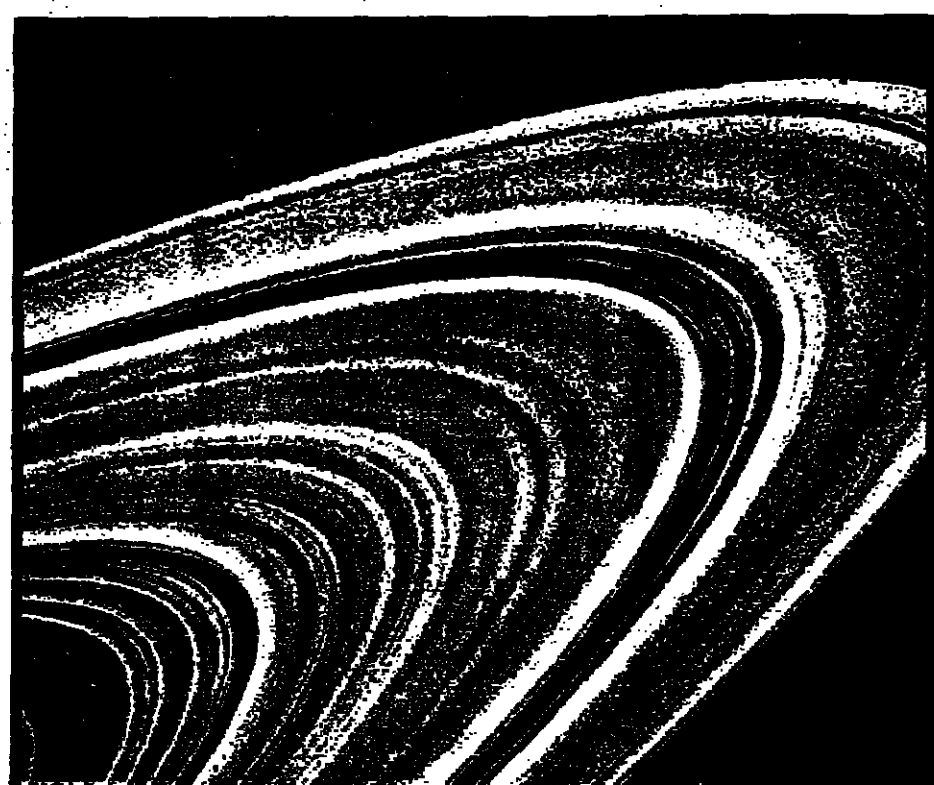
Going further is costly in energy terms, but limits exposure to predators, the naturalists speculate in *Conservation Biology*. The finding could be useful in giving guidance to forestry companies and loggers anxious to preserve woodland birds, and emphasise the dangers of fragmenting forests by felling huge strips. It also lends some support to the idea that "corridors" of unfelled forest are valuable to wildlife.

Voyage to Saturn

The biggest planetary explorer of all lifts off on a seven-year journey to Saturn and its 18 moons. Anjana Ahuja reports

The Huygens space probe cost £267 million to build. That makes every second of the three hours of data it will beam back to Earth worth £25,000. It may seem an extraordinary price tag for a series of bleeps from a distant moon, but the scientific value is impossible to quantify. For Huygens will afford human beings the first detailed look at Titan, the largest moon in orbit around Saturn.

Titan has long aroused curiosity because its atmosphere contains nitrogen, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, the elements that constitute life on Earth. The composition is thought to mirror the atmosphere on Earth before living organisms appeared. Biologists hope that uncovering the chemical cycles operating on Titan will instruct their own theories about the evolution of terrestrial life.



Saturn, the solar system's most beautiful planet; and an enhanced picture of the rings

Huygens, built by the European Space Agency, is the centrepiece of the Cassini mission, the last in a procession of glorious bottomless-budget NASA space voyages that began with *Mariner* in the Sixties and *Seventies*, and continued with the *Viking*, *Voyager*, *Pioneer*, *Ulysses*, *Magellan* and *Galileo* missions. *Cassini* is the biggest planetary explorer of them all.

There is substantial British involvement. A device developed by Imperial College, London, will measure the planet's powerful magnetic field; an elaborate camera devised by Queen Mary and Westfield College will take 300,000 snapshots. The University of Kent at Canterbury led a consortium that developed the instruments for Huygens, and the probe will use British-designed parachutes to approach Titan.

Due to lift off from Cape Canaveral today, *Cassini* will take seven years to reach Saturn, the second largest, but most beautiful, planet in our midst. The ship is named after Jean-Dominique Cassini, a French-Italian astronomer who studied Saturn in the 17th century and discovered four of the 18 moons.

summer of 2004, it will scrutinise the planet, its famous rings and its 18 moons.

In November 2004, *Cassini* will release the Huygens probe into the soupy orange fog surrounding Titan. When jettisoned, Huygens will freefall towards the moon. It will awaken after a seven-year sleep to yield 24 hours of data while it parachutes through the atmosphere, and will spend just half an hour studying the surface of the moon itself.

The Huygens probe is named in honour of Christiaan Huygens, the Dutchman who discovered Titan in 1655 and first noted that the planet was "surrounded by a thin ring not adhering to the planet at any point and inclined to the ecliptic".

During its cruise, the *Cassini* orbiter will gain momentum by making four planetary flybys. It will skim Venus twice, in April 1998 and June 1999, Earth in August 1999 and Jupiter in December 2000. On arrival at Saturn in the

or crash into a solid surface. The moon also boasts large amounts of methane in solid, liquid and gas forms — the probe could breathe its last in a vast methane lake.

The *Cassini* orbiter, meanwhile, is expected to circle the planet more than 70 times and swing by Titan on 45 occasions, mapping its surface through the clouds using radar. The spacecraft will send back information about magnetic fields, the abundance of charged particles, and the chemical composition of the rings and moons.

Brief flybys of Saturn by *Voyager* and *Pioneer* spacecraft in the late Seventies and

early Eighties revealed that the seven rings are slender bands of fine debris, studded with chunks of ice and rock. The flybys also showed that some of the rings were, in reality, many ringlets braided together.

The astonishing diversity of moons will also come under examination. Enceladus boasts a perfectly smooth surface composed of pure water ice; one side of Iapetus, mysteriously, is black; Mimas and Tethys are scored with impact craters and deep trenches.

It has taken 17 nations 15 years to bring the mission to fruition. The entire cost is estimated at £2.1 billion, which

includes the cost of Huygens and its operational expenditure over its 11-year lifespan. Yet there have been numerous attempts to prevent the mammoth mission.

Protests have focused on the fact that *Cassini*, like other space missions before it, will be powered by the radioactive decay of non-weapons-grade plutonium. At dispute are the three radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs). Each is filled with 72 ceramic pellets of plutonium oxide; these emit alpha rays as the plutonium decays. The release of these rays produces heat, which in turn is converted to electricity to provide propulsion, and to power the 18 on-board instruments.

The main worries are that *Cassini* is carrying the largest amount of plutonium ever sent into space (about 32 kg); it will be launched by a Titan IV rocket, which has a one in 20 failure rate; the spacecraft will graze Earth during a flyby in August 1999.

Nasa has responded by conducting numerous risk analyses. These show that a person is more likely to be hit by an asteroid than suffer exposure to harmful radiation; the chances of plutonium being released during the flyby are fewer than one in a million; alpha rays can be blocked by clothing, so the oxide is likely to pose a hazard only if ingested. The pellets are encased in iridium shells, which have been designed to withstand an explosion at launch.

I would be next to impossible to use solar power — Saturn lies more than nine times as far from the Sun as the Earth. The solar energy reaching the ringed planet is only a hundredth of that which falls on Earth. Experts estimate that *Cassini* would require solar panels the size of two tennis courts; such an array would make the craft too unwieldy to launch.

The final decision to send *Cassini* to Saturn came from the White House, just over a week ago.

Professor David Southwood, the principal investigator for the Imperial College magnetometer, is among those breathing sighs of relief. He first became involved in the concept of a satellite visiting Saturn in 1980, and he guesses he will be analysing data from it until 2010. "That's 30 years of my life so it's an enormous emotional involvement," he says.

The scientific spin-offs, Professor Southwood thinks, will be tremendous. "Saturn and its moons are like a miniature solar system," he says. "It gives us another shot at investigating how our own solar system evolved."

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'French women are difficult — I like difficult women'

Grace Bradberry talks to Ewan McGregor, on the brink of being Britain's big new name

As a drama student, Ewan McGregor once had to be a cup of coffee. "How do you do that? And why should it matter?" he recalls incredulously. Whatever the point of the exercise, you can bet he did it with charisma, just as today, in a characterless suite in London's Intercontinental Hotel, he is doing "Young Star Opens Bottle of Coke," and giving a magnetic performance.

"I might have a Coke," he says, wandering to the carefully laid breakfast table. "Do you want one? Oh, of course, there's no bottle opener," he says, looking helpless. They have waiters for that here. "Yeah, I know, but I don't want to bother anybody." He returns to the sofa, and levers the bottle open using the gold edge of the coffee table.

The action is gleefully subversive but McGregor makes no acknowledgement, warning instead to his explanation of why *A Life Less Ordinary*, his latest film with the team that made *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*, should be riskier than those two darker, more shocking movies. "That's why, I think, because people expect it to be what it's not. I think it's risky because it's an American romantic comedy."

McGregor, 26, plays Robert, a sacked office cleaner seeking revenge who kidnaps the boss's rich daughter Celine, played by Cameron Diaz. Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo play two angels who are told they face expulsion from Heaven unless they make the couple fall in love. It's a delightful, funny, rather old-fashioned film, which plays heavily on the chemistry between McGregor and Diaz.

McGregor worried that a mainstream film might lose him his cutting-edge reputation, acquired through his portrayal of Mark Renton, the heroin addict in *Trainspotting*.

"Oh, and there's no way you could say it's mainstream. I mean it's not. Nor do I go round worrying about my image in any way," he says, a bit deliberately.

Since leaving the Guildhall early for a part in Dennis Potter's *Lipstick on Your Collar*, he has had leading roles in Peter Greenaway's *The Pillow Book*, the film version of *Emma* and *Nightwatch*, a Hollywood thriller. He has also starred in *ER*, and has two more films, *The Serpent's Kiss*, a period thriller, and *Velvet Goldmine*, a glam-rock film, completed but not released.

In 1999, this impressive list will be overshadowed by the movie event of the millennium: the new *Star Wars* trilogy, in which McGregor plays the second lead, the young Obi-Wan Kenobi. His fame is about to go intergalactic, but for now we think of him in the same way as other British luminaries. One pictures them hanging out together. "Oh yeah, ha ha ha," he laughs, amused.

So do they? "Not really. I see people from Oasis now and again," he volunteers. It turns out that the previous week, doing publicity in New York, he spent an evening in their dressing room backstage at *Saturday Night Live*. "But only in a star-struck way. I sit there going, 'It's Oasis! It's not one of the team,'" he says.

Already bigger than Colin Firth, but not yet in the Daniel Day-Lewis league, McGregor remains very much the Scottish-boy-made-good. Despite being the most fashionable movie star we have, he clearly does not give a damn about looking cool. He is wearing tight black jeans, popular in the late 1980s, and white striped trainers. His hair is unfashionably spiky. In conversation, he is normal, good-natured and entertainingly cocky. He also has a good line in sarcasm.

The demagogue, coupled with the bleary Scottish burr, is misleadingly naive. Before he began filming *A Life Less Ordinary*, he made out to a male journalist that he couldn't remember Diaz's name. "I was trying to be cool. It's embarrassing when men gush about someone like that. What they're talking for is, 'She's amazing' — which now I can tell you she is. But I'd only seen her in *The Mask* — and I hated *The Mask* — but of course I remembered her. Ha ha ha."

When we meet, he is watching his language after an interview in *The Face* riddled with four-letter words. "I like swearing," he grins. "But I was really embarrassed. My Dad was phoning and saying, 'Ewan, you've got to stop swearing when you're doing interviews.' I said, 'Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.' You forget, they're sitting up in Scotland and all their friends are reading it. All my teachers..." His

It was quite a moment for a boy from Scotland to see there: 'Jedi McGregor'

headmaster read it. His father was mortified. McGregor attended Morrison's Academy, a private school in Gifford, Perthshire, where his father teaches games. Being a public schoolboy, he has a line in rich vernacular that is surprising, though he is appalled by this connection. "Being a public schoolboy! What does that mean?"

At school, he played the French horn, and appeared on *Grampian Television*, wiping his nose on his sleeve between each passage of Mozart because he thought it looked cool. "They had to keep cutting to the pianist." For years his father entertained Ewan's girlfriends with the video.

Ewan left at 16, knowing that he wanted to act. His parents agreed, partly because he had become moody and depressed. "I didn't realise at the time, but apparently I was." He has said before that he had become labelled as someone with an "attitude problem". So what happened?

McGregor was 24 when he married Mavrikis, who is seven years his senior. They met while filming *Kavanagh*

"I started having problems with one particular teacher. She was a Jean Brodie type. We'd been quite close, but then she started pushing me in a particular direction. Anyway, I started answering back and she kept sending me to the headmaster. The whole thing became embarrassing." Ten years on, he is not only famous, but also married — to Eve Mavrikis, a French set designer. She and their 20-month-old daughter Clara, move with him wherever he is filming. They rented a house near Salt Lake City for the

three-month shoot of *A Life Less Ordinary*. Diaz also rented one in town. Her boyfriend, Matt Dillon, was around. On set, Diaz and McGregor had adjoining trailers, striking up a warm friendship.

"You hear terrible stories about actresses in Hollywood demanding three trailers, and I was hoping that she wasn't starchy and she isn't. You can see on screen that we're having a good time. The romance is heightened, and there's a real warmth in our scenes. I think, because we're genuinely enjoying doing them."

McGregor seems able to build this kind of chemistry while simultaneously adoring his wife. He has just bought a house in St John's Wood for a reported £1.25 million. Are the reports true? "None of your business," he says, peevish. "I wouldn't discuss how much it cost with anybody," he adds, more emphatically.

McGregor was 24 when he married Mavrikis, who is seven years his senior. They met while filming *Kavanagh*

TOMORROW
'I lost a summer and had to postpone my wedding.'
Jason Cowley on being a Booker prize judge



McGregor says *A Life Less Ordinary* is riskier than *Trainspotting*: "I think it's risky because it's an American romantic comedy"

QC, not *Scarlet and Black*, as has often been reported. That was an earlier French girlfriend. "My wife would love it if you could clear that up," he says, chuckling. So what is it with French women? "They're difficult," he laughs, and who can tell if he's serious.

Would he, at 20, have imagined marrying so young? "No, no, never. I had this amazing bachelor pad in Primrose Hill. The things that went on there..." But then he began to feel low. "So I wasn't very satisfied with it any more, and then I met Eve and it really did feel very, very different. And we wanted to get married, so we got married. Then I got really, really excited about having children, and I wasn't wrong to be so excited."

He was there at the birth. "And that was extraordinary. That's something you can't put into words. We'd been in there, 24-hour labour, Caesarean section at the end... it was the longest emotional experience of my life, ha ha ha, you know, and then they send you home. And I thought, 'No, you can't... What am I meant to do when I get home? So I got home and opened the door, and it was like walking into somebody else's life.'

I phoned a lot of people, crying down the phone to my parents, at 6.30am [screaming and wailing]. And they were like... [screaming and wailing]. Lots of crying people. Lots of people asleep as well. [Bleary voice:] 'Oh that's good, that's good.' [Shouting:] 'No, but I just went through this thing.' [Bleary voice:] 'Aye, anyway, I'll speak to you later, it's five in the morning...'

You can't help feeling he has no idea how much his life is about to change again. For the moment, he is still consumed by the thrill of being in such a mythical movie as *Star Wars*. "The first day I got dressed properly it was quite a moment for a boy from Scotland to stand there and look in the mirror: 'Jedi McGregor.' His older brother flies Tornados in the RAF. 'Mad bastard, he's really fast.' So he won't be as impressed by *Star Wars*? "He will be dead," he says. "Things like Cameron Diaz really **** him off. I had to get her to sign a picture for him, which he has above his bed." The marital bed.

A wicked sense of humour obviously runs in the family. *A Life Less Ordinary* opens nationwide from October 24

Why you're never too old to tell a lie

Joe Joseph calls time on reluctant wrinklies

THERE MUST be very few things sadder than pretending to be younger than you actually are just because you are too embarrassed — as 100-year-old Ina Marshall of East Kilbride has been for most of her life — to own up to your real age. I know that I'm not alone in holding this view, because many other boys in my sixth form think this way, too.

Ina was the woman who camouflaged her age so as to spare her husband, John, the awkwardness of being married to an older woman. John discovered only last week that he had been a toyboy for the past 80 years, when his and Ina's joint 98th birthday party was interrupted by the arrival of a telegram from the Queen, dramatically exposing his wife as a centenarian (from the Latin "centum", or "stinking", and "Arian" meaning "white liar").

But what is it that makes people lie so shamelessly? Often, it is a fear of younger people's attitude to those older than themselves, because — sadly — many people look at a 90-year-old and see only a creased body that looks as if it's just emerged from a powerful Horpoint spin cycle. I know I do.

Yet that still doesn't stop me from looking forward to the rewards that growing old brings — including finally being able to abandon the pretence of always having to be smarter than your children. (Obviously, I don't mean your children, whom I've probably never met, but my children.) Even the apparent downsides of old age carry blessings. Take fading memory, which will be a Godsend if it means I get to erase all the words of *Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep* from my brain. Remember, also, that many people are fully appreciated only when they actually become old: Ronald Reagan and Sir Edward Heath, for example, are liked much more now they have reached an age that ends all chance of their holding high office again.

OF COURSE, many people fear admitting to themselves that they are getting older because they dread the thought of not being able to do all the things they once did. But the great thing about ageing is that when you get older you find you don't even want to do those things any more. Already by the age of ten you don't want to ride your tricycle any more, which you would never have imagined at, say, four. When you're 30, the idea of missing large chunks of a movie just for a snog seems pretty dumb. When I'm 80 I'm looking forward to being able to cut short all conversations with pleasant strangers trying to be friendly, because, really, what's the point? Eighty, thankfully, is just too old to start making new friends.

Best of all, as a centenarian you hold a rare position in society inasmuch as you are one of the very few people who can still legitimately regard Mick Jagger as a young rock'n'roller. And if you still feel queasy about getting old, just remember this: it is a statistically proven fact that you will never be as old as William Hague. Not even Ina.

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This is the exotic week of the two Bookers. One in the City of London to anoint the Booker novel of 1997. The other in the city of Cheltenham for the novel of 1847. In both cases it will be a damned close-run thing.

This year's Booker list has been shrugged off and slugged off in a manner which this annual literary contest must long have got used to. Shrugging off is par for the course, as is slugging off, deriding, scorning and bemoaning. This is called the literary life.

I was informed by a literary man of massive gravitas that the literary editor of a monumentally literary broadsheet had declared himself against this year's Booker list — even though, under some (though only slight) pressure, he conceded that he had not read a single novel on the list. Few can aspire to such pure judgment, so unclouded, so uncorrupted. But of course I disbelieve my informant, despite his gravitas, knowing that such a thing could never be Literary London and this was no

A great shortlist for the Booker... of 1847

more than yet another canard engendered by the fever of emotions stirred by this famous literary prize.

Of course our literary editor might have been momentarily angry because some of his favourites were not shortlisted. In this, if true, he is a real man of the people, for anger at omissions is common to all of us.

Two novels I have read this year certainly "deserved" to be on the shortlist: Bernard MacLaverty's *Grace Notes* and Jim Crace's *Quarantine*. But alas, like 60 million others, I am not a judge. Having read all six shortlisted books I would claim that two are a worthy match for several of the winners over the past 25 years. That, though, is just my opinion. And that is the devil of it. We are in the hands of mere opinion. It is clearly barking mad to attempt

final judgments on paintings, songs, books or anything artistic that moves. Dogs, my dog breeding friends tell me, are different: there are points to be observed and ticked off. Experiments, scientific acquaintances say, are also different: there are proofs to be had. But art by the yard or by the theorem is a slippery business at best.

Yet merrily we roll along dishing out judgments. Provided everyone accepts that it is a game, but one which can be played with a certain intelligence and a sense of fairness, then not too many pates get broken. If, in a few years' time, the winner does not settle down comfortably alongside most of the other Booker winners.

Yet go back 150 years, glide gently westward from the City of London tomorrow night to Chel-



Melvyn Bragg, publisher and bookman, had the clever idea of doing a Booker prize for the class of 1847.

was one of those who took part. There were six of us, and John Coldstream who set the year in context.

Each of us took a book of that year, discussed it in front of the Cheltenham audience, retired to vote, voted while the public also voted, and returned to proclaim *Esther Waters* by George Moore the winner. (I would have gone for *The Jungle Book* and might even have said so had there been an 1894 paper on hand to gripe to.) 1895 was won by *Jude the Obscure* which was my choice, so I was silent and serene and perfectly content with the judging process. H.G. Wells's *Island of Doctor Moreau* triumphed in 1896 (I was much surprised that *Outcast of the Islands* was not in there).

But look at the line-up for an astutely chosen 1847. *Domby and Son* by Dickens; *Vanilla Fair* by

William Thackeray; *The Macdermots of Ballycloran* by Trollope — and then the Three Bells, later known as the Brontës: Emily with *Wuthering Heights*, Charlotte with *Jane Eyre* and Anne with *Agnes Grey*. This is a list of glory.

Of course there was a touch of hindsight here among the pre-judges. The long list of 112 novels endured by today's judges was abridged and there was no calling in of late favours. Just — just these six. The panel besides Ion Trewin is Victoria Glendinning, Malcolm Bradbury, Clare Tomalin, Roy Hattersley and myself. We will be racked with the wonder and the wonderful ridiculousness of it all.

What terrific fun to contest the claims of Dickens and Thackeray, whose *Vanilla Fair* was said in 1847 to overleap the great Dickens.

What fine scalps will be needed to slice through the comparative sibling qualities of the increasingly more extraordinary Brontës; and who can deny the power of that Tyrannosaurus rex of 19th-century literature, Anthony Trollope?

Those rare but increasingly numerous people who inhabit literary festivals will undoubtedly even now be reading, sorry, re-reading all six of these novels. But the hard question has to be asked. Would not a Booker Prize in 1847 with all its attendant publicity have made the name and the reputations of Messrs Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Bell Bell and Bell? Would they not now take up even more shelf space in libraries, and encroach into even more than 50 per cent of the paperback space in the latest gilded bookshops, had Booker's benison been then what it is now? Where was Booker when it was needed to speed these writers on their way? We shall never know, but we can be thankful that at last in Cheltenham they will have their day.

A medieval love to die for

David Bintley's *Edward II*, given its British premiere at the Birmingham Royal Ballet on Thursday night, is a brave adventure. By choosing one of the most unsavoury episodes in British history as its subject, and by commissioning an original full-length score from a composer whose work is not immediately recognisable to the theatregoing public, Bintley has shown himself to



Wolfgang Stollwitzer (standing) as Edward II in David Bintley's new work for Birmingham Royal Ballet, with Andrew Murphy as Gaveston

DANCE

be a choreographer who is not afraid to take risks.

Bintley, who bases his ballet on Christopher Marlowe's play, portrays Edward II as a tormented homosexual monarch too bound up in his own desires to see to the needs of his kingdom. Bintley develops his medieval drama through a series of pas de deux: for Edward: Gaveston, the King's gay lover; Isabella, the King's neglected wife; and Mortimer, the powerful baron who orchestrates Edward's eventual downfall. Each pas de deux tells a different story — of desire, desperation or danger — and the ballet stands or falls on their narrative success.

This is where the inadequacies of John McCabe's otherwise fine score come into play. He is an accomplished orchestrator, his brass-inflected writing evoking dark hazy corners wherein lurk agents of evil. But McCabe fails to shape his atmospheric score for intimate movement. One scene blends into another, the uniformity of the choreography to a distinct framework. Where McCabe's style works best is in the passages of pure violence — the execution scene is terrifically theatrical.

Bintley, too, has his problems. The homosexual couplings are a little skittish, although a love duet is necessarily awkward when you can't rely on big lifts to provide

the emotional exclamation points. But Edward's final duet, with his executioner Lightborn, is forthright and poignantly disturbing.

Bintley resists the temptation to get too graphic in so bloody a story, although when he does use blunt statement — the red hot poker, for instance — the effect is arresting. He also sets up a resonant contrast between the tenderness of Edward's love for Gaveston and the brutality of the other relationships that engulf the King.

Peter J. Davidson's powerful sets, exquisitely lit by Peter Mumford, convey the damning enclosure of Edward's world. Jasper Conran's beautiful costumes take the medieval period as their starting point

but travel through five centuries of fashion, right up to the bondage gear of Edward's jailers.

Wolfgang Stollwitzer, who originated the role at its Stuttgart premiere two years ago, is Edward, equally persuasive playing puppy love games with Andrew Murphy's sympathetic Gaveston or scrabbling to save himself at the horrific moment of death. As Isabella, Sabrina Lenz's best scene is early on when she pleads — impassioned but impotent — for Edward's attention. A charismatic Joseph Cipolla is the leather-clad Mortimer, ideally cast to lead the barons' revolt and to seduce the starved Isabella.

DEBRA CRAINE

Inspired by the noise

WHILE their musical cousins the Verve have gone sprinting to the top of the charts, Spiritualized remain essentially a cult band. Their impressive third album, *Ladies And Gentlemen We Are Floating In Space*, although released to a chorus of critical approval in June, quickly slipped from view. And while they command a steadily growing and untamed devoted following, the Midlands band exhibited a broad streak of musical extremism at their sold-out Albert Hall show on Friday that was every bit as confrontational as it was inspirational.

It began (and ended) with a version of the modern gospel standard, *Oh Happy Day*, a hit in this country for the Edwin Hawkins Singers in 1969. "Oh happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away," Jason Pierce sang, his face wreathed in dark shadows while the stage was engulfed in a purple haze of dry ice. The delicate, neo-hymnal mood of the song was shattered by the abrupt onset of *No God Only Religion*, a sudden crescendo of noise which was accompanied by blinding bursts of strobe lighting.

Thus the pattern of this entrancing and exhilarating performance was set. The band were joined by a four-piece horn section, a four-piece

string section and eight members of the London Community Gospel Choir, who sang brilliantly. Themes of spiritual uplift alternated with anthems of chemical release, as the show see-sawed giddily between delicate lullabies and bouts of harsh cacophony. The strands were eventually woven into a transcendent whole during *Cop Shoot Cop*, a 15-minute tour de force during which they conjured a sequence of such apocalyptic fury that various members of the Albert Hall staff could be seen diving for cover through the exits.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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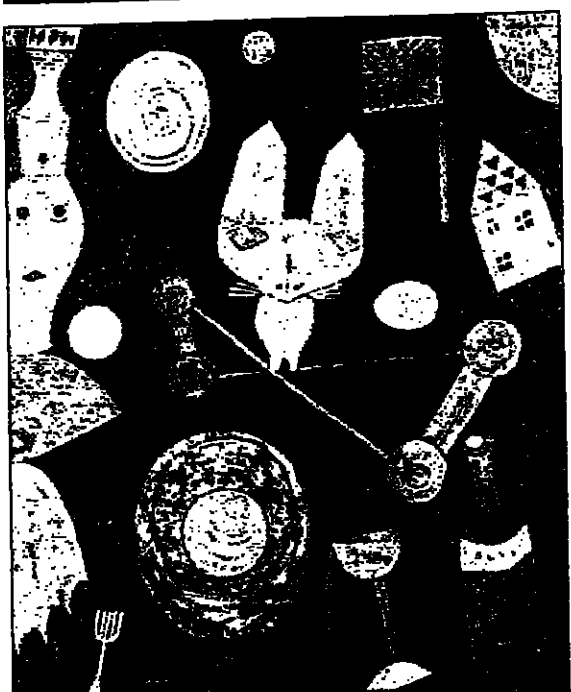
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TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Balancing act

Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's new still lifes

■ PAUL KLEE: *Colourful Meal*, 1928

EVERYTHING in this canvas seems as playful and innocent as a child's painting. The assembled objects appear to be dancing, and their brightness looks jaunty against the blackness behind. After a while, though, the festiveness falters. The wine spilling from the glass induces a seasick mood. The bilious orange face on the left looks apprehensive, and the miniature house teetering on the other side might well keel over. Intoxication can easily turn into queasiness. Klee takes a puckish delight in hovering between both states, like the strange pink creature balanced precariously on a wire at the centre. Is the blackness beyond a tablecloth, or the infinity of a night sky? Klee does not tell us, but his deceptive picture keeps both possibilities up in the air.

□ *Objects of Desire*, sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, is at the Hayward (0171 960 4242)

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From the

House of the Dead

Janaček

Twice Through the Heart

Mark-Anthony Turnage

Pretty sight for sore eyes

MOZART's comedy is a comparative rarity nowadays. Its humour is tricky in an age sensitive about racial stereotyping, the hero is monstrously unsympathetic, and it is the very devil to cast — in which respect Glyndebourne Touring Opera's Pasha Selim needs to be recast immediately, because an actor who provokes laughs at the work's rather serious denouement is plainly the wrong man.

But William Dudley's almost indecently pretty decor, first seen in 1980, is a sight for sore eyes in this cardboard-box and supermarket-plastic-bag age of opera design. His fretwork sets (nicely lit by Keith Benson) and richly coloured Holman Hunt costumes are reason enough for GTO digging both them and the work itself out of storage.

Aidan Lang's tactful new staging mines a vein of daffy humour that steers the script safely past the more dangerous rocks, especially in the case of Gregory Frank's Osmin, star of the show. This highly musical young American bass sings the role accurately and beautifully, and acts it with great good humour; you know all that stuff about impalement and beheading is just an act, and he's a kindly old buffer at heart.

The Belmonte problem is solved by playing this insufferably arrogant Spanish nobleman as a wimp; unfortunately this tends to spill over into Carlo Vincenzo Allemano's singing, which is sweet and honeyed almost to a fault until the final duet, when a little heroic edge creeps in. Similar-

OPERA

Die Entführung Glyndebourne

ly, Ghillian Sullivan cannot disguise the hideous difficulties of Constanze's role, but she too sounded less laboured in that duet and brought more variety of dynamic to her singing, auguring well — with luck — for later performances.

The comic roles are nicely done. Mary Hegarty fizzing

through Blonde's notes and cheerfully subverting the age-old values of the harem, and Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts making Pedrillo less tiresome than usual through sheer theatrical nous. The tempos chosen by the conductor Richard Barnes all sound absolutely right; the piece seems shorter than it actually is, though some discreet trimming of the dialogue would not come amiss. But the show looks and, for the most part, sounds lovely.

RODNEY MILNES

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Why royalty thrives on republicans

Frank Prochaska on Diana's death and the anti-monarchists

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has re-invigorated the monarchy debate just when it was showing signs of flagging. It is too early to be sure about the impact of the Princess's life on the Crown, but it seems unlikely that republicans, who seek to use her as a vehicle to destroy the monarchy, will make much headway. Will a devoted public deny her her great wish — that her son become King?

Meanwhile, Tony Blair has invested heavily in the Royal Family. No one should be surprised by this, for he inherits a political system with built-in prejudices in favour of monarchy, backed by voters with little enthusiasm for constitutional upheaval.

The Crown has always had far less to fear from political change than it believed

Where republicans see royal obstruction, Blair sees royal potential. Quite sensibly, he believes that since the monarchy will be around for the foreseeable future, it should be relevant and useful. Moreover, he appreciates that the Crown, far from impeding reforms as republicans imagine, makes it easier to implement them. As the work of the Princess of Wales demonstrated, the monarchy is an agency of social empowerment. With one foot in the State and the other in the charitable sector, the Royal Family is in a pivotal position to bring them together in dynamic partnership. Ideologically, the Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales have much in common, especially on issues such as education and the inner cities. In what may be a portent, the Prince's Trust range of charities will play an important part in the Government's Welfare to Work programme.

Such initiatives may pay unforeseen benefits, for a Labour administration may need the monarchy more than a Conservative one. Popular rule requires symbols of legitimacy — never more so than during periods of reforming zeal. Ben Pimlott has pointed out that the monarchy made Labour's postwar programme of nationalisation more palatable to the nation at large, for it "stood as a guarantee that pragmatic caution would prevail and radicalism kept within bounds". The same Government found the monarchy useful in giving respectability to the fledgling National Health Service.

Such historical reminders will not persuade republicans, for they suggest that the monarchy may be needed to give legitimacy to their own reforms. One might conclude that they must either foment revolution, or persuade the Royal Family to join their campaign. Indeed, several republicans, with more than a hint of innocence and desperation, have called on the Queen to declare a republic. Others have entreated Prince Charles to stand down when the Queen dies. They might be better advised to recast Charter 88, rename it Charter 1688, and open discussions about the constitution with the Palace. There may be a message for the Crown in all this. Over the past two centuries, the monar-

As the parallels with historic market collapses grow more disturbing, don't expect any soft landings

Counting the days to a Black Monday

In a few days' time the world's stock markets will see the 10th anniversary of the 1987 crash: it is 68 years since the great Wall Street crash of 1929. The initial pattern of these two crashes was the same: stock markets rose to exceptionally high levels of value; interest rates started to rise; so bond markets fell; stock markets made a panic correction. After 1987 this was followed by long-term recovery, and little lasting damage was done to the world economy; after 1929, the recovery petered out in 1930, and the world economy went down into the slump. Japan went through the same experience after the end of the 1980s, and the Tokyo stock market is still only a little above half its peak level.

Wall Street has risen in the 1990s in a way which is alarmingly reminiscent of the 1920s, the 1980s, and Japan before the Tokyo crash. The standard measures of value, dividend yield, earnings yield and the ratio of the share price to the book value of the underlying assets, are all higher than they were in 1987, or even in 1929. The simplest comparison of all, though not the most sophisticated, is the dividend yield. That is now 1.5 per cent, in late September 1992, before the panic, the dividend yield on Wall Street was more than 3 per cent. In the major bear markets of the 20th century, the bottom has never been reached before the dividend yield had gone back to more than 6 per cent. If this market crashes, it has potentially a long, long way to fall.

The over-valuation by historic standards is less extreme in European markets, but is still disturbing: on some estimates, the over-valuation in the important European stock markets is about two thirds that of Wall Street. It used to be said that if America caught a cold, Europe would have pneumonia; now if the United States catches pneumonia, Europe can expect a nasty bout of flu.

Last week the Chairman of the

Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, issued the second of his major warnings about the Wall Street boom. He is very worried about inflation. In the past, inflation has been the underlying cause of all the market crashes. In its early stages, monetary inflation pushes up asset values; a little later, inflation spreads through the economy, interest rates rise, and that rise triggers the stock market collapse. Mr Greenspan is particularly worried that the demand for labour will cause American pay rates to rise, and unemployment in the United States has now fallen below 5 per cent.

Mr Greenspan told the budget committee of the House of Representatives that: "The performance of the labour market this year suggests that the economy had been on an unsustainable track... If labour demand continues to outpace sustainable increases in supply, the question is surely when, not whether, labour costs will escalate more sharply. The law of supply and demand has not been repealed." Alan Greenspan is about the most experienced economic analyst in America. In the 1970s he earned his living by economic forecasting, when he was not doing public jobs such as that of Chairman of President Nixon's Council of Economic Advisers. He has a record of getting things right.

As Chairman of the Fed, he is not just making forecasts, he controls American interest rate policy: last Wednesday's statement is regarded

as a public warning that he intends to raise interest rates. He is not only concerned about the labour market; he is worried about the "irrational exuberance", as he once called it, of Wall Street. On Wednesday he said that "financial markets seem to have priced in an optimistic outlook".

Unexpectedly, the Bundesbank raised its interest rates last week. The central banks of Austria, France, Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium followed the German example, while the Bank of England has

William Rees-Mogg

raised rates already, and may well do so again. In the United States unemployment is less than 5 per cent. In Europe, apart from the UK, average unemployment is well over 10 per cent: it is more than 20 per cent in Spain and east Germany. The higher interest rates are thought appropriate as part of the preparation for the single currency; it seems wrong to deflate the European economy while unemployment is so high. In the United States, share prices have been pushed upwards by the continuing flood of money into mutual funds. Most of this investment has been done by the baby-

boom generation, which was born in the years after the war and is now aged between the early 30s and 50. This generation has not been good at saving in the past, and is experiencing a belated savings panic in middle life. Mutual funds have seemed an easy option; they offer little or no income — the 1.6 per cent dividend yield scarcely covers costs — but they have shown spectacular capital returns during the boom years.

If interest rates do go up in the United States and Europe, their bond markets will fall; that is likely to trigger falls in the stock market. At some point, the baby-boomers may notice that they are getting a negative capital return from mutual fund investment. Some will stop buying; others will want to sell. There may or may not be another panic, but the conditions for a panic will undoubtedly exist. Nor could Mr Greenspan do much about that. The gap between expectation and reality, the pricing in of an optimistic outlook, has become too great. If Wall Street stops going up, it can only go down.

There are plenty of other worries in the investment world. The Japanese economy is weak, and the Japanese banks could want to repatriate some of their funds; the economies of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines are in difficulties. There are wider anxieties about the trend of world liquidity. This boom has been fed by easy money; there is now less easy money about.

And against these worries, there is

little comfort from the argument that there is now a "new paradigm", that we are living in a new age and that the old rules have been suspended. Historically such theories of a new paradigm have provided rather a good indicator of market tops. John Law invented a new paradigm of credit expansion in the Mississippi bubble of 1720; the railways were the new communications paradigm at the time of the railway mania; automobiles and radio provided the new paradigm of the 1920s; computer networks and globalism are the new paradigm of the 1990s. When the market is so high that it has become impossible to justify still higher prices on the old argument, someone always comes along to say "it's different this time". It never has been before, and Alan Greenspan does not think it is now.

No one can know when the top of the boom will come, or whether it has already passed. I suspect that Wall Street will find it very hard to stay above 8,000 on the Dow Jones, but I may be wrong; we could have a Black Monday today, or in a week's time, or in a year or two. The certainty is that stock market values are already way above their historic norms: they are way above their long-term trend lines, in the United States, in Europe, and in those other world stock markets which have not yet fallen. The likelihood is that stock markets will have a soft landing: if the mutual fund investors of the United States stop buying, Wall Street will have to fall a long way to get them started again.

The risk of a stock market crash is a threat to world prosperity. Japan has had seven lean years after the fall of its stock market. The United States had ten lean years after 1929. There is much more than the fortunes of speculators riding on the Wall Street indices.

Proceed with care, Mr Blair

Behind the rhetoric, the Prime Minister is no risk-taker, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has always been bold on strategy, but cautious on tactics. That is why he is so successful, and popular. But he now faces a series of decisions — over a single currency, electoral reform and the welfare state — that will show what lies behind his rhetoric about "hard choices".

His own views are unclear. He is temperamentally more interested in ends than means, big strategic goals such as Britain's position in Europe than details of implementation. He also believes that the Government's ability to take action is dependent on maintaining his and his popularity, even though current, record poll ratings are unsustainable. That could lead to a risk-averse approach to win re-election in four years' time.

However, Mr Blair wants to show that he can be as radical in Government as he was in Opposition, producing a record comparable to Asquith and Attlee. He can already point to Gordon Brown's bold initiatives over monetary policy and City regulation, and to his own commitment to break the stalemate in Northern Ireland. But none of the Government's actions, apart from the proposed tuition fees for students, threatens party unity or public popularity. Each of the three forthcoming decisions could, and probably would, be explosive. There is no chance of Britain entering in January 1999, because the economy and interest rates are way out of line with the Continent. The question is how soon afterwards will there be sufficient signs of convergence, as well as enough support to be sure of winning a referendum. Although this implies



that the main decisions can be put off for a year or more, the Government has to decide how precise to be about its future intentions and timing in the December statement about continuing the opt-out.

Mr Blair's advisers are worried about losing hard-won supporters. No one in Downing Street needs reminding that *The Sun* is seeking to reinforce these fears by its high-profile campaign on the issue. Polls suggest that a clear majority is against British involvement.

However, as Robert Worcester, of MORI, has argued, polls are not the same as referendums. The latter are more considered and generate much greater attention. While the precise wording can be vital to a poll result, it is unimportant in a referendum. What matters is the line-up on each

side. In the 1975 referendum on European membership, and again last month on Scottish devolution, most politicians respected by the public were in the "yes" camp and those most disliked on the "no" side. By contrast, several respected Welsh MPs were in the "no" camp, where the result was a virtual dead-heat.

Mr Blair would hope to build a similar coalition this time, with most of Labour, the Liberal Democrats, pro-European Tories, and leaders of big business and the unions. But the opponents would be more powerful than in 1975, with William Hague, Baroness Thatcher and most Tories, plus the biggest-selling papers. Mr Hague's use of the term "not in the

foreseeable future" is merely intended to postpone a Tory split until it becomes inevitable. He will oppose entry at any stage, just as I am sure Kenneth Clarke will be in the "yes" camp. My hunch is that the public will back entry, provided the Government is still generally popular and businessmen can point to the dangers of remaining out. June 1999, the date of the Euro-elections, hardly allows enough time for the interim system of fixed exchange rates to be judged. But it would be risky to delay much longer.

The Government's decisions on electoral reform are in practice, secondary to how Mr Blair wants to develop relations with the Liberal Democrats. He has set up a consultative Cabinet committee with Lib Dem leaders to demonstrate his commitment to pluralist politics. But it is unclear whether the next step is to treat the Lib Dems as an increasingly close ally subsumed under the "new Labour" umbrella, or to create the opportunity for multiparty co-operation through electoral reform. Delicate talks are under way between the two parties about the terms of reference and membership of a commission to investigate a proportional replacement for first-past-the-post to be put to a referendum. Some Labour leaders believe that only the alternative vote (numbering one, two, three on the ballot paper) would be saleable to the party, since this preserves the direct constituency link. But this is opposed by the Lib Dems because it is not a proportionate system.

By contrast, the problems over welfare reform are more about devising, than selling, a policy. Mr Blair's hope is that savings on welfare can finance an expansion in education. But it is not clear how far the Government will go along the road of extending means-testing by integrating tax and benefits, or, alternatively, accept Frank Field's ideas for reviving a contributory system of social insurance. David Willetts mischievously suggested at the Tory conference that welfare reform could be as messy and damaging for Labour as healthcare reform was for President Clinton in his first term.

Hard choices, indeed. Defeat in a referendum on a single currency could fatally undermine the Government, while failure to achieve radical welfare reform, as the heart of the comprehensive spending review, would limit the scope for improving other public services. Decisions on electoral reform could either end or cement moves towards a more pluralist style of politics. My hunch is that within seven to ten years, Britain will be in any European single currency (if it survives early strains), the first-past-the-post system will have been replaced in its present form, and universal state provision of welfare will have been substantially modified. But Mr Blair will not rush any of these decisions. He wants to remain the People's Prime Minister.

Revolting

INMATES of Dolphin Square, the Pimlico flats teeming with politicians, have had enough. After a summer of discontent — which saw the square's proud residents, William Hague and his fiancée among them, queuing Russian-style beside water tanks after diesel polluted their mains supplies — there is a call to arms. An action committee has been formed to complain about a "revolting" new reception area amid claims that residents' wishes are ignored.

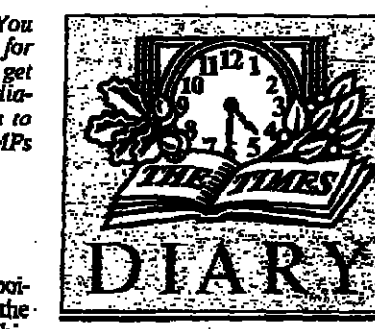
"It is a lurid, fluorescent peach," says resident Graham Elson, general secretary of the Liberal Dem-

ocrats, "blended in to a royal-blue deep-pile carpet with matching chairs. It is more kitsch-Finchley-Road than Dolphin Square; very Dorian from *Birds of a Feather*." The action committee is a militant splinter-group of the Dolphin Square Tenants' Association. One prominent female member considers it a crusade: "It's time we got together to sort these problems out," she said. "The reception is horrible, it glows." She is confident of recruiting Hague.

However, Peter Temple-Morris, Tory Member for Leominster, said: "They have made a lot of changes and many are improvements. I don't see myself as the revolutionary of Dolphin Square." A voice from the management board says of the redecoration: "It's just a question of taste." Indeed,

week I asked what was wrong. "You used to get a standing ovation for supporting hanging. Now you get cheered for slugging off the parliamentary party. The first person to advocate hanging all Tory MPs will really lift the roof off."

FOR a man so sensitive to the course of the political breeze, Jeffrey Archer has slipped up: he has dedicated his new collection of short stories to "John and Norma".



Tory MPs' complacency. As his constituency workers urged him to campaign harder during the election, Portillo responded by suggesting that they help other consciences.

Of flesh-pressing, he declared, he had "had enough". When it was pointed out that losing his Enfield Southgate seat would mean the end of his cherished ambitions, I gather that he responded: "If we manage to lose a seat as safe as this then there will not be a party worth leading." I hope that this does not make William Hague feel despondent.

AS Tony Blair enjoyed his latest foreign policy coup (our draw with Italy) by watching the match on television at Chequers with his boys, Gordon Brown took in the action from the VIP box. Not so his senior aides Charlie Whelan and

Mr Ed Balls — they were locked in the ground for two hours after the match as police scoured the terraces for violent hooligans.

Snap snack

LEGS were crossed in Bloomsbury, the publishing house, when news arrived that one of its most prized authors had been bitten in the most intimate of places by an alligator.

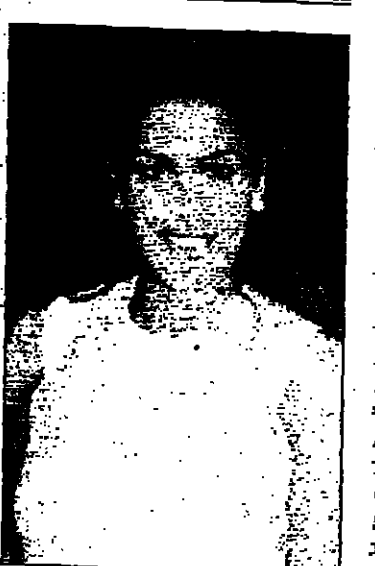
Hunter S. Thompson, renowned for a temperament more acidic than the Sixties psychedelia of his books, was to have made a rare sortie across the Atlantic to promote his latest effort, *The Proud Highway: The Fear and Loathing Letters, Vol 1*. But the tour has been cancelled while the author recovers from his brush with reptilia at his home in Woody Creek, Colorado.

"He said he had been bitten on the thigh and possibly, er, higher up," I am told. "It is most distressing." Knowing Mr Thompson, I just hope the alligator is all right.

IT could be a costly blunder. The Imperial Hotel in Blackpool has long decorated its bar with snags of Prime Ministers. But absent this

Money walks

WHY do offspring of the celebrated — and wealthy — feel this peculiar urge to become models? Is it that their fathers failed to give them enough attention? Er, no. It is, I am told, because they need the money. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild's daughter, Jessica, is the latest who plans to wait expensively down the catwalk. I fear that attention at a forthcoming show for the jewellers Spinks & Son will not focus on the gems or even the models, but on their surnames. For among the other models will be Sophie Dahl, Jemma Kidd, Natasha Manley and



Jessica rich pickings

Natasha Caine. Jessica recently graduated from Edinburgh University before wandering into the post of literary editor of *Tatler* magazine. "Her job title is really grand for a virtual nipper," says an associate. "But her father would earn more sitting in the bath than Jessica would in a year at *Tatler*, so maybe the modelling will cover a few rent cheques."

JASPER GERARD



IN THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY

New technologies complement, but do not replace, the old

The time has come to reinvent the library. More than half a millennium after Gutenberg first used moveable type, a revolution at least as profound in the storage and transmission of information is passing Britain's libraries by. The book is not dead, but as a source of facts rather than private pleasure it is increasingly rivalled by electronic systems. Those with access to the Internet through a computer and a telephone line can wallow in their heart's content in facts and figures. Not only is information available more easily and in greater quantity, but the system is easier to understand and operate than the microfiche catalogues of the public library. Nor is access denied because another reader has got there first. Gratification is instantaneous.

Faced with this challenge, librarians must be tempted to throw up their hands and start planning their retirements. But that would be a betrayal of their traditions. New communication technologies, whatever their inventors believe, seldom displace what has gone before. Since they first began rolling off the presses in the 15th century, books have learnt to coexist with newspapers, magazines, radio and television. Once the sole repository of human wisdom, they are now one among many. But reading has survived; more books are published than ever. The need now is not to abandon the book and its home, the public library, but to devise ways of accommodating both to the Internet's information revolution.

That is why a report to be published later this week by the Library and Information Commission is especially welcome. It recognises both the strength of the public library system, which attracts 1.3 million visitors every working day, and its relative weakness. Over the past ten years, according to figures from the Audit Commission, borrowings are down by 19 per cent, purchasing budgets have fallen by 10 per

cent, and opening hours are also in decline. In some areas, to the shame of the local authorities responsible, libraries are closed for a day in mid-week in order to shave a pitiful fraction off their operating costs.

Both the Audit Commission in its report *Due for Renewal*, and the Library and Information Commission in its complementary document *New Library: the People's Network* recognise that the future lies in linking the library to the information superhighway, and that this will cost substantial amounts of money. In 1994-95, UK libraries spent a total of £20 million on information technology. But the Library and Information Commission sets a target of £36 million for connections, and annual spending of £84 million on rentals, to provide a "step change" in the way libraries operate. For this, users would gain access not only to the Internet, but to a network of terminals which would link them to both local and national government and to systems for lifelong learning, business and training, community history, and a national digital library which would make the riches of all national collections available on screen everywhere. The report suggests a variety of possible sources for the money, but unlike the Audit Commission, does not believe that charging the individual user is inevitable. This "crucial issue", it says, cannot be determined at this stage.

Many other questions, including standards, copyright, and licensing would need to be clarified before any of this could go ahead. In the real world of local authorities and their increasingly neglected libraries, the idea of such a stunning rebirth seems improbable. Yet if we value the library system as the best way yet devised for those in humble positions to improve themselves, a change of this scale is not only desirable but absolutely necessary. Without it, libraries are condemned to an inevitable decline.

YANKEE COME HERE

Clinton should add Latin America to his legacy

American Presidents invariably travel thousands of miles while in office. Yet they rarely visit their own backyard. Bill Clinton has embarked on the first full tour of South America by a US President since that of Jimmy Carter almost two decades ago. The region is one of ever increasing significance to America's interests. In its own way, Mr Clinton's mere presence in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela makes this one of the most important overseas ventures of his tenure. It is unlikely that it will be another 20 years before a successor makes a similar trip.

Mr Clinton entered a cautionary note even before his departure. He stressed the priority he would place on enhanced efforts against the drugs cartels and political corruption. Those remarks will have caused some irritation in his host countries. They reflect, however, the President's political situation. The single-minded efforts of Senator Jesse Helms have made the alleged connection between public officials and the narcotics industry in both Mexico and Colombia a serious issue in Washington.

The reluctance of past Presidents to be seen south of the border reflected the explosive relationship between the US and its neighbours. For many years, almost all Americans were unpopular in the continent. They were invariably associated with uniformed dictators and commercial dominance. "Yankees go Home" was the universal cry of local populists. Then Vice-President Nixon was almost killed in 1958 when his visit to Venezuela triggered a full-scale riot. After that, US policy towards Fidel Castro's Cuba provided another excuse for mutual hostility. Not surprisingly, American statesmen avoided the area.

However, Latin America has witnessed a dramatic transformation between the Carter and Clinton eras. In the 1970s, stable democracy of almost any form was a rarity. The region was dominated by military regimes under threat from Marxist insurgents. With the exception of General Pinochet's Chile, South American economies were strikingly statist. All that has changed. Multiparty politics, of admittedly varying quality, has become embedded. The economic outlook has been revolutionised through liberalisation, privatisation and attacks on inflation.

Mr Clinton would like to make the expansion of free trade the centrepiece of his agenda. His early decision to embrace Nafta was among the most positive acts of his presidency. The timing of this tour though is slightly inconvenient. The President is struggling to secure congressional support for his full power over trade negotiations. His opponents have painted free trade as the means by which American firms will export employment from the Midwest to South American sweatshops.

For that reason the President will choose to tread carefully. He should not allow these short-term factors to obscure America's future. Mr Clinton should publicly welcome the reforms that have been made as well as the remaining difficulties that must be tackled. He should make it clear that he would like to see Nafta extended to include Chile and full inter-American free trade by the early years of the next century. Mainstream Republicans will back him, not least because of their electoral dependence on Florida and Texas. The President still has time to make this central to his legacy.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

A good read is the bit in between introduction and pay-off line

First lines fire the opening salvo of a book. They are not often representative of the chapters marching up behind them. They may hook their reader to read on or warn their reader to waste no more time. They are more likely than succeeding lines to stick fast in the memory, especially as identification tags for poems learnt by heart. That is why *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations* feels able to include an entry for the most famous opening lines in literature.

As we report today, the 41 opening lines it has selected are well-known, varied and controversial. The first line of Western literature, "Sing, Muse, the wrath of Achilles," is not included. Homer may now reverberate less loudly than he has done down the millennia. And "Of Man's first disobedience and the fruit" is ruled out by modern difficulty with Milton's copious classical references. However, it seems rash of the compilers for a publishing house accustomed to difficult authors to omit the first line attributed to its most difficult though most profitable contributor, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." But they were not choosing what seemed to them the most memorable quotations. They have trawled through a huge computer database of quotations to find which opening lines were most often plagiarised, cited and otherwise recycled by later writers and speakers. These will vary for each reader and change with curricular and literary fashion. But it is predictable that the genius, in both senses of the word, of

Shakespeare is going to cause double, double, citation trouble.

If it is odd to leave out the witches on their blasted heath, "When shall we three meet again?" it seems perverse not to recall actors from Olivier to Branagh croaking or chuckling their various readings of "Now is the winter of our discontent". Moreover, the plainest opening lines can stir the biggest ripples. Scene 1, the guard platform of Elsinore Castle, Francisco at his post. Enter to him Bernardo. However, it is not the guard on duty but his nervous relief who speaks that haunting opening line "Who's there?"

Michael Arlen, with his Duchesse exclaiming "Damn!" as she lights a cigar, wrote a sensational opening sentence. It made *The Green Hat* a Twenties bestseller, but its fictional shock has since been overtaken by real life. Michael Frayn, in *Towards the End of the Morning*, defined the job of a sub-editor as checking all facts and spellings, cutting the first and last sentences, and removing all attempts at jokes. These favourite opening lines seem to argue against Frayn's definition, although publishing history does not often record what previous throat-clearing introductions editors may have deleted in order to clear the way for their memorable openers. Closing lines usually give a more reliable indication of the pleasures to be found in a work of literature. The dictionary includes a list of those also. And so they lived happily ever after, in the most agreeable of literary games, arguing about their favourite spells in literature.

Preserving special status of Oxbridge

From Professor R. N. Franklin, *Feng, Vice-Chancellor of the City University*
Sir, Your report (October 8) leading article, October 9) that the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge have attacked the Government's decision to cap the rise in 1997-98 college fees for both universities. This highlights a fundamental inconsistency at the heart of our university system.

The college fees represent top-up fees, fully funded by the State through the mandatory award system. These two universities receive in total £50 million extra funding by this route, even allowing for the fact that their block grant is somewhat reduced because of the college fee system. However, the Government is opposed to top-up fees and has even threatened to legislate against them.

There are those who advocate removing the college fees. However, the money thus saved, if spread around the system, would do little to alleviate the funding crisis, and meanwhile we would have destroyed the only two of our universities which are truly and consistently world-class.

I consider that the solution is for the Government to make an explicit policy decision to maintain the special status and funding of these universities. There would be an obligation on them to account for the extra funding in a transparent way, allowing comparison with the rest of the system.

From my knowledge of these excellent universities I believe the comparison would demonstrate that in university funding, as in so much of life, you get what you pay for.

Yours truly,
RAOUL FRANKLIN,
Vice-Chancellor,
The City University,
Northampton Square, EC1,
October 9.

From Mr C. C. Dixon

Sir, As a lifelong Labour supporter who never contemplated going to Oxbridge, I would normally be the last to support anything which smacked of propping up such bastions of elitism with taxpayers' money, but I caution against tinkering with these particular institutions for three reasons.

First, the loss of funding has for many years been an influential factor in the opening up of these institutions to applicants from the state sector. While Oxford and Cambridge are now suspected of operating a bias in favour of state school applicants, the American equivalents seem on all accounts to be dependent upon the ability of their students to pay.

I have seen the effect on aspiring students of the prize of a place. They work as though their lives depend on it and in doing so inspire those around them, be they siblings or contemporaries, to do likewise. I would hazard that for every successful student a dozen more are motivated to try to excel, with consequent ripple effects.

Oxbridge and its system give confidence to those wishing to study non-vocational subjects. Many who choose such subjects now might not wish to do so under a different system and the teaching profession for one would be deprived of a source of recruits.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS DIXON,
The Old Rectory, Cranham, Essex,
October 8.

From Mr A. N. Binder

Sir, Will those same remote dons who dared snub my Thatcher now mete out the same treatment to barbarian Blair? Will another Oxford Prime Minister be denied the customary honorary doctorate?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BINDER,
Old Place, Speldhurst, Kent,
October 9.

Self assessment

From Mr C. W. Cortes, *Deputy Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue*

Sir, Contrary to the views of Ms Christine Maher, of the Plain English Campaign, (letter, October 9), taxpayers generally can understand the self-assessment form. We are delighted that of the eight million issued we have so far received over 4.5 million completed forms back, exactly where we planned to be at this stage.

Most of them have been filled in by taxpayers on their own, without the help of tax advisers. They have been completed well, to a standard above our expectations. There is simply no evidence for her claim that the form cannot be understood. Indeed, it was widely tested on taxpayers before being finalised last year so that we could be sure they would be able to manage.

As to relations between the Inland Revenue and taxpayers, we have around 50,000 staff dealing each year with the affairs of some 26 million people. We are not complacent about the level of complaints, but it is tiny when seen against the size of our operation.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE CORLETT,
Deputy Chairman,
Board of Inland Revenue,
The Board Room,
Somerset House, WC2,
October 10.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Reforms fail to attract young Tories

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, The proposed reform of the youth sections of the Conservative Party (letter, October 8) is long overdue.

The Young Conservatives have diminished to a parody of their former selves, with few branches and few active members; many exist as "rotten boroughs" for the sole purpose of voting in the elections for national officers. Even Conservative Students, which enjoyed a revival between the mid-1980s and early 1990s, is a spent force on university campuses.

The decline of the youth sections is illustrated by an analysis which I conducted at the end of last year of prospective Conservative candidates at the 1997 general election. This reveals that of the 41 newly elected Conservative MPs only 14 have been YC members, and this attachment was little more than a courtesy membership. Only two took their involvement above constituency level, and none served as national officers.

The proposed reforms are still unlikely to produce a vehicle which will attract young people to the party. If the Conservative Party wishes to attract young people into its structures then it has to offer them the jewels of participation: opportunities to elect the leader and determine party policy.

Crucially, this involvement must be as part of the mainstream party and not assigned to some safety-valve siding.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BALL,
17 Haverfield Road, Bow, E3,
October 7.

From Mr James Johnstone

Sir, Lord Tebbit's response to being called a dinosaur — "The dinosaur was a very successful species that dominated the planet for a very long time" (report, October 9; see also letters, October 11) proves that he has only a selective memory of history. After their lengthy period of domination the dinosaurs were wiped out almost overnight by a catastrophic event only to return many years later as museum attractions.

Despite the electoral rout Lord Tebbit still does not appreciate that the traditional Tory values he is advocating are unappealing to younger voters. The dwindling number of party members should be evidence enough that such values have to be tailored to contemporary society and a more liberal electorate.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JOHNSTONE,
16 Redcliffe Road, SW10,
October 9.

Healthcare and the ability to pay

From Dr Richard Willis

Sir, I agree with William Rees-Mogg ("Why the NHS is the sick man of Europe", October 6); the conflict between the Government's legitimate determination that healthcare should not depend on a patient's ability to pay and the nation's limited resources is a real one that needs to be resolved.

Unlike him, however, I do not believe that patients should pay for each consultation. Such a scheme can have an inhibitory effect on patients seeking medical advice and can make the doctor reluctant to ask patients to return for a further consultation.

In my own practice the great majority of patients pay a subscription, either annually or monthly, allowing medical care to be unhampered by a fee for each attendance; those of limited financial means pay a smaller subscription or nothing at all. Clinical care is thus totally unhampered by financial constraints, and patients know at the start of the year what their medical care will cost.

An extension of this type of primary care might herald a gradual change from Treasury funding, while at the same time allowing the Government to watch the development of care in which ability to pay was not an issue. It could also begin to free medical care from the pressures of government funding and political control.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLIS,
Salisbury Independent
Medical Practice,
5 Wyndham Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
October 10.

Return of the Emperor

From Mr Roman Ilmar Golicz

Sir, Your report on the recent "rehabilitation" of Napoleon III's reputation in France (report, September 26; letter, September 29) mentioned the current campaign which, I admit, may only with difficulty excite much emotion in this country, but which nevertheless will cause any government in France that attempts to act on it considerable difficulties. I am referring to the proposition — mooted by the leader of the Gaullist party, M. Philippe Séguin, and others — to have the remains of the Emperor and his family translated from St Michael's Benedictine Abbey in Farnborough, Hampshire, to Paris.

Any such attempt must — and shall — be resisted. M. Séguin and all those who support him in this endeavour will find that a certain spirit of resistance of our own has not diminished with the passing of the years.

Let us not heap Pelion upon Ossa with this unfortunate family, either by providing any political group in France, of whatever persuasion, with the kudos resulting from such an ostentatious *coup de théâtre*, or by disturbing their peace to assuage Gallic guilt. We have witnessed it all too often since the days of the Revolution.

Napoleon III was an extraordinary man. May he, at last, rest in peace.

Yours faithfully,
ROMAN ILMAR GOLICZ,
16 Marston Road,
Farnham, Surrey,
October 3.

Playing the game

From Mr Stewart Reuben

Sir, Mr Alex Standish (letter, October 9) disagrees with suggestions by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference about how sportspeople should behave and castigates a goalkeeper for helping to persuade a referee that the opposing team should be awarded a goal as the ball had crossed the line.

Who is in a better position to make that judgment than the goalkeeper? The goalkeeper's team went on to win. The match was obviously played as it should be, in a spirit both of fair play and will to win.

My second greatest love among games is poker. In a game where winning is the quintessence of its purpose I have seen breathtaking examples of fair play. Surely we can encourage the same principles in school sports?

Yours faithfully,
S. REUBEN (Chairman,
British Chess Federation),
11 Haversham Close,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
October 9.

From Mr Anthony Calder-Smith

Sir, A fair arbiter will err as often for you as against you.

I played in a junior league house rugby match at Ampleforth in 1976. Touching down the ball behind my own try-line for a 25-yard drop kick, I and my 14 team members were as-

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, It is odd that David Green, writing from the Institute of Economic Affairs (letter, October 9) to advocate universal "private insurance and competition between hospitals" on the American model of managed care, should overlook the huge administrative costs of that system, which completely excludes 15 per cent of the population from all cover and a further 20 per cent from continuous full cover.

The (non-productive) hospital costs of administering even this imperfect US model were 24.8 per cent of total in 1992. At that time the cost of administering the whole of the National Health Service was 7 per cent, but since the Tory reforms this has risen to 11 per cent.

For almost identical health outcomes (eg, life expectancy of both sexes and maternal mortality) the per capita total health expenditure in the United States is 2½ times that in the United Kingdom (£1,860 and £732 respectively in 1992 — Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development figures).

To imply that the NHS is not underfunded and to advocate the expensive but no more effective American model seems to me to substitute unproven competition dogma for plain common sense.

Yours truly,
ROGER HOLE,
(NHS consultant, 1973-95),
Wynd House,
Hutton Rudby,
Yarm, North Yorkshire,
October 9.

— be resisted. M. Séguin and all those who support him in this endeavour will find that a certain spirit of resistance of our own has not diminished with the passing of the years.

Let us not heap Pelion upon Ossa with this unfortunate family, either by providing any political group in France, of whatever persuasion, with the kudos resulting from such an ostentatious *coup de théâtre*, or by disturbing their peace to assuage Gallic guilt. We have witnessed it all too often since the days of the Revolution.

Napoleon III was an extraordinary man. May he, at last, rest in peace.

Yours faithfully,
ROMAN ILMAR GOLICZ,
16 Marston Road,
Farnham, Surrey,
October 3.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY CALDER-SMITH,
39 Fernthorpe Road, SW16,
October 9.

From Mr M. J. Knapp

Sir, Your piece about cheering from the touchline (report, "Play the game, public schools tell their boys", October 7) reminds me of an incident many years ago at my independent school.

I and another small boy were watching a rugby match. A member of the opposing side failed to convert a try. We clapped and cheered.

We were immediately sent inside by our housemaster and threatened with being banned from watching matches for the rest of term.

I now watch double-faults being applauded at Wimbledon and sadly contemplate what has happened in the intervening years.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN KNAPP,
1 Brookland Barn,
Ashtington, Totnes, South Devon,
October 8.

Artists born and bred as Brummies

From Professor Stan Smith

Sir, Mr Wilfred Morgan's claim (letter, October 8) that "Nobody to my knowledge who was born and lived a major part of their life in Birmingham has ever risen to national prominence in the arts" cannot go unchallenged.

The greatest English poet of this century, W. H. Auden, was admitted by birth in York; but his family moved to Birmingham (where his father became Chief Medical Officer for Schools and Professor of Public Health at the university) only a year after his birth, and he grew up there, outside school and college terms.

He continued to live with his parents in adulthood, between trips to Germany, Iceland, Spain and China, etc, throughout the 1930s until he emigrated to the United States in 1939. For a time in 1938 he even wrote a regular review column for the Birmingham *Town Crier*.

Such was Auden's commitment to the city in which he grew up that in *Letter to Lord Byron* in 1937 he announced that

Clearer than Scafell Pike, my heart has stamped on
The view from Birmingham to
Wolverhampton.

Sadly, one of the Auden family homes, in Lordswood Road, near the swimming baths, is now demolished; but others, in Court Oak Road, Harborne, and, I believe, in Solihull, are still standing. It is time they were graced with blue plaques to celebrate this most English of 20th-century poets.

Yours sincerely,
STAN SMITH
(Auden Concordance Project,
University of Dundee,
English Department,
Dundee DD1 4HN,
October 8.

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, If I may be allowed to make education in Birmingham rather than protracted residence there the criterion, how about Burne-Jones and Tolkien, both of them educated at King Edward's School — and, incidentally, at Exeter College, Oxford?

And would your readers wish to be denied the pleasure of reading the words of Burne-Jones: "His experience at King Edward's? He" "as there in the 1840s, and he recollected 50 years later:

I was snubbed at school... in the groin. It didn't hurt much, it was during prayers and so was kept from the headmaster of course.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FISHER
(Chief Master,
King Edward's School, 1974-82),
Crack Cottage, Lower Street,
Ditmarsh, nr Dartmouth, Devon,
October 8.

From Mr A. M. Guthrie

Sir, As another native of Erdington, I wonder, has Wilf Morgan never heard of Jasper Carrott?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GUTHRIE,
13 Ty Newydd Drive,
Castleton, Cardiff,
October 8.

Ask a silly question...

From Father Jonathan Hemmings

Sir, I have little sympathy for the friend of Old Lancastrian Mr D. L. B. Hartley (letter, October 8) who was punished for writing in his Divinity Prize essay: "A Sabbath Day's Journey is from Lancaster to Morecambe Odeon." He should have known that the Sabbath refers to Saturday, not Sunday, thus making his journey unnecessary, since on that day the Odeon would have been open in Lancaster.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN HEMMINGS
(Chaplain and Head of Divinity),
Lancaster Royal Grammar School,
Lancaster, LA1 3EF,
October 8.

From Mr David J. Prescott

Sir, Had the pupil in question made his response in more recent times, he might well have taken the prize rather than a beating. It perfectly describes the time it seems to take to make this four-mile trip by road in 1997.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID J. PRESCOTT
(Director of Music,
Lancaster Royal Grammar School),
32 Greenwood Avenue,
Bolton-le-Sands,
Carnforth, Lancashire,
October 8.

Moveable feast

From Mrs Michelle Milsum

Sir, Why do people complain that Christmas comes earlier every year? With tinsel in shop windows, magic music on the radio, children's eyes filled with delight, family reunions, surely Christmas is something wonderful to look forward to.

In these days of gratuitously violent movies, rapes, muggings, homelessness and other miseries, what is wrong with thinking about Christmas early?

Yours sincerely,
MICHELLE MILSUM,
32 Wilberforce Court,
Kings Drive, Edgware, Middlesex,
October 10.

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

FIRST AND FOREMOST
Schumacher wins in Japan to regain pole position
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BOXING FINDS

A NEW STAR
Bright future beckons Joe Calzaghe
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ANGLING FOR SUCCESS

Emma Davies fishes for medals in a man's world
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FINAL HURDLE

Rusdski stumbles in Vienna
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 13 1997

ENGLAND COME HOME FROM ROME IN TRIUMPH



Looking for Mr Wright: Hoddle, the England coach, seeks out the Arsenal striker who personified the England effort in the goalless draw at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Hoddle halfway to heaven



England captain, who needed six stitches in a forehead, described the win as the best of his career

TWO hours before the kick-off, the giant screens at either end of the Olympic Stadium here flickered into life. First, they showed a selection of great Italian goals. Luigi Riva got some of the highlights. Paolo Rossi was among them too, with a stooping header in his hat-trick against Brazil in the 1982 World Cup. Predictably, the footage of Gianfranco Zola's strike against England at Wembley in February got the biggest cheer.

Some time later, the England squad sauntered out on to the pitch to sample the atmosphere, their tracksuit tops tied around their waist, and high in the stands somebody slipped a new video into the machine. It was newsreel footage, black and white and a bit grainy, but the figures were clear enough.

The camera lingered on Bobby Moore as he limbered up before a game and then moved on to Bobby Charlton. Tony Adams, Ian Wright, David Beckham and the rest stopped to stare. For a couple of minutes, they watched images that they must have seen a thousand times before, the events of the 1966 World Cup Final, and then strode back to their changing room.

Later, after midnight, when the celebrations that followed England's automatic qualification for next summer's World Cup finals in France courtesy of a nerve-wracking 0-0 draw with Italy had calmed down a little, when Wright had stanchioned his tears of joy, when Gareth Southgate had managed to stop his fist pumping in delight, David Beckham had stifled his whoops of joy and six stitches had been inserted in the angry gash on the forehead of Paul Ince that had splattered his shirt with blood,

For England there is no champagne. The job of winning the World Cup has just started, Oliver Holt says

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and his players remembered that footage.

They were delighted, of course, that they would not have to be subjected to today's agony of discovering which team they would have to face in the two-legged play-offs between group runners-up, which will be Italy's fate. A gentler examination, a friendly against Portugal in little over a month's time, and a flood of requests from other nations interested in similar fixtures, are theirs to look forward to instead.

They were jubilant, too, that, for the first time in eight years, England had qualified for the World Cup finals, the sport's biggest stage, the event

that is bound to take the burgeoning levels of interest in the game in this country to hitherto unexplored heights, that will allow a whole generation of players like Adams, Ince and Wright to fulfil their ambition of appearing in the competition.

Yet, in its current incarnation, this is not a squad reared on epiphany. Hoddle has built it to last, has tailored everything to qualifying for France and has always insisted his England side would get there. To achieve that ahead of Italy is cause for rejoicing, but on the flight back to Luton early yesterday, there was an absence of euphoria that made the atmosphere almost subdued. It was a determination

to recognise that the goal had not yet been achieved. "If I had had any doubts about whether I could get us to the World Cup," Hoddle said, "I would not have taken the job. Terry Venables did a magnificent job before me, which put a lot more pressure on me when I took over. We are only halfway there. My standards are much higher than just qualifying for the World Cup. I want us to do well in it, too."

It was a proud moment when the whistle went tonight and we went out and joined the players, but the hard work starts now. It starts here, because we are setting ourselves a standard and we have not reached it yet. You put the wedding suit on when you are in the tournament. We can look forward to that."

The feeling of optimism and togetherness that is coursing through the squad seems to be growing every day. Ince and Paul Gascoigne both alluded to the youth of many of the squad, players like the Neville brothers, Gary and Phil, Beckham, Sol Campbell and Robbie Fowler. Hoddle picked out Rio Ferdinand, the West Ham United defender, and Nigel Quashie, the Queens Park Rangers midfielder player, who could put pressure on existing members of the squad in the run up to the finals. And there is still the prospect of Alan Shearer's return from injury.

Everything is positive now. Everything is moving forward with a feeling of gathering momentum. "There was no champagne after the match tonight or anything like that," Ince said. "After Euro 96, we felt we could go on and achieve something, but if we had not won tonight, we would have achieved nothing. It is a great feeling but the main task is still ahead."

THE TIMES WINNING TEAM IN ROME

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Italy beaten at their own game

Imitation enables cunning Hoddle to achieve his goal

AS Cesare Maldini, the ageing Italy coach, saw the television inquirers coming for him in the Olympic Stadium late on Saturday night, he cast a glance at Glenn Hoddle. The young Englishman was in the throes of a dance of joy with the inevitable Gascoigne, with his coaching accomplices and with those who had helped him to plot revenge on the Italian way of achieving football triumphs.

England did to the Romans what they had done to them over so many years. The game was made sterile, the ball was possessed by calculated, clever but frustrating ground control. Tempers were kept in the face of provocation, the bodies kept moving through dehydrating oppression... and while others lost their heads and their reputations, the police as well as some English fans, Hoddle's team was proving not only worthy of qualifying for the World Cup finals, but also deserving of England, not Italy, to be among the favoured final four when the tournament begins in France next summer.

How remarkable. How very surprising that Hoddle, barely out of his playing boots, whose reputation was for playing the Beautiful Game more than any English contemporary, should take such pride in orchestrating a night of such negativity.

Unashamed, Hoddle was to take the plaudits from Maldini, who agreed that England had the strength of character and personality beyond his own team. "We nullified the Italian strength," Hoddle said, "and we went on to nullify the game. Everyone should be very proud. We have qualified for the first time in eight years and our major concern in the team talks was of temperance, of keeping our heads. We did that magnificently."

Indeed, a team in modern sport does not have to be virtuous to be valiant. While England were casting off their cloak of long-ball football, another team was doing something similar in the heat of Athens. Denmark, close to England in the athleticism of their football, needed a 0-0 draw and achieved it in front of 70,000 seething Greeks, who at one point responded by

ROB HUGHES



In Rome

firing so many flares towards the field that the referee had to suspend play for five minutes and take the teams to the relative safety of the centre circle. Disorder, violence and rabid nationalism are not, as some portray it, England's disease.

Neither is the art of manipulating the flow of a game any longer a Latin preserve, or an English failing. In the final seconds before half-time, six Englishmen — Beckham, Gascoigne, Le Saux, Sheringham, Ince and Campbell — had drawn the sting out of Italy. They had laced together 14 passes and only once did a player need more than a single touch. Then it was Le Saux, dancing out of the lunging reach of Di Livio, who was later to become so incensed

his work has only just begun, that if England are to aim for the achievements of Germany or Brazil, their training-ground efforts have to be redoubled, but he has identified the men he needs for the job. His captain, Ince, gave blood, his defensive pillar, Adams, never gave an inch, and Gascoigne, in whom Terry Venables and now Hoddle have bestowed outstanding faith, managed — just — to curb his daft recklessness and to control the rhythm of the vital first half-hour with the passes and cushioning of a football in the manner for which he is almost uniquely suited.

If at times this accomplishment ran averse to the noble aims of the game, there is, in the offices of administration, an understanding. "There is so much pressure on coaches that they think about the result and nothing else," Eris Ahlstrom, the Dane who speaks for Uefa, the European governing body, said. "We will not change this, whatever we try to do through the rules. My country, Denmark, qualified on Saturday as yours did and I'm thrilled."

Italy did not. They had given to the world decades of barrenness, sometimes lacing the spit with artistic beauty, but emphasising always that the opponents fail to score, they cannot win. Yet England, perversely, did precisely that. Hoddle's team played Italy home and away, scored not a single goal, squeezed the will and the effectiveness out of the Italians and gained the one necessary, competitive point. How so? England's real triumph had been in Poland and had been in Poland

'In modern team sport a team does not have to be virtuous to be valiant'

that he was rightly sent off for two ugly fouls.

This quintessential English move ended with an exchange of passes between Sheringham and Beckham that almost gave Beckham the only goal of the night. It had been pass-and-move out of the very traditions of Tottenham Hotspur, where Hoddle, his assistant, John Gorman, and indeed his goalkeeping coach, Ray Clemence, all honed their craft. Thanks to White Hart Lane, thanks to Bill Nicholson, the old mentor, and thanks be that Leicester Gates's lumbering doctrine of long-ball football is now history.

Hoddle rightly cautions that

and Georgia, where they dared to win and Italy, timidly, drew. Hoddle admitted that he had indulged in gamesmanship. He had exaggerated Beckham's cold and his players, particularly Gascoigne and Wright, had "drawn fouls" from the Italians. Conquering, in a fashion, the cunning by which Italy built World Cup power, Hoddle's ultimate achievement has been to impute England's dressing-room with the spirit of togetherness that enabled the British Isles to prevail against the odds in South Africa and enabled Europe to beat the United States in the Ryder Cup. To use his catchphrase, it is about "inner belief".



Gascoigne channels his aggression into dispossessing Baggio, of Italy, during England's draw in Rome. Photograph: Massimo Sambucetti

No tears as Gascoigne has last laugh

Oliver Holt looks back on a night of redemption for England's midfielder, who won his own personal battle in Rome

Those who have been trying to help him have said that a change has come over Paul Gascoigne in the past few months, that, at last, he has started to see the light. As Saturday night turned into Sunday morning in a small room off the labyrinth of corridors under the Olympic Stadium in Rome, it was apparent that something was, indeed, different. This was post-match, this was Italy and Gazza was before us with dry eyes and his head held high.

It had been a vale of tears for him, this country where his talent had first burst on to the world stage, a place where, one after the other, his fragile dreams had withered and died, where his career had seemed to slip into a debilitating sort of decadence that all lamented but most thought was the beginning of his decline and fall.

He had wept in the Stadio Delle Alpi, in Turin, when England lost their World Cup semi-final to Germany in 1990. Later, when he moved to Rome to play his club football for Lazio, he endured his most tortured years, existing like a slave to gladiators who had his drinking and his eating had spiralled out of control and a slough of injuries had

condemned him to three years of frustration in Serie A.

On Saturday night, though, in the same stadium where he had toiled for Lazio, in front of the fans who still love him for the occasional flashes of brilliance that he once gave them, Gascoigne got his own back on Italy in the goalless draw that took England to the World Cup finals in France next year. He produced one of the most controlled performances of his career and played with a sustained quality and maturity, illuminated by flashes of technical brilliance.

He made a fool of Albertini and embarrassed him constantly with his elusiveness and speed of thought. In the first half, Gascoigne and David Beckham were at the heart of everything that England created.

As he sat in that small room after the match, it almost seemed as though his tormentor soul had found a measure of peace in revenge and that he had finally laid his ghosts to rest. "The last time I left here after a World Cup match, I was in tears," he said. "This time, there is a smile on my



face. When I left Lazio, their president said 'The next time you come to Italy will be for a holiday' and he was right. I've enjoyed my holiday tonight."

"I will kill Glenn Hoddle if he doesn't pick me for the World Cup squad, but in some ways I don't mind. I played in the World Cup in 1990 and I really enjoyed my time. I'd like to think I have done the job I had to do in the qualifying matches, but next year is another year."

"Who knows, I might get injured. Touch wood, I won't, but if Glenn thinks other players are better than me, then I will wish them good luck, because it is a great tournament. What is

important for me is that I leave Italy this time on a good note and next time I come here, I will be able to walk around with my chest stuck out."

"We just played the Italians at their own game tonight. They are very good at diving, cheating, trying to waste time and we knew that if they got a goal, they would do that. So I did a bit of it myself. I kicked the ball away a few times to let them chase it. It was great, honestly it was great, to see them running after the ball for a change. They were desperate and it was a really nice feeling to see that. Even when their fans started throwing bottles and coins on to the pitch, that helped us, too, because it just wasted their spare time."

Gascoigne spoke with a rare reflection and a maturity of purpose that he had never shown before. For the first time, he expressed a desire to help those around him as the World Cup approaches. Until now, he has been forced to concentrate on getting help himself.

"I stayed controlled during the game tonight," he said. "You have got to understand we have a lot of young players

on the bench coming through challenging for places. When I was their age, I had people like Terry Butcher, Bryan Robson, John Barnes, Chris Waddle and Peter Beardsley and they pulled me through and I learned from them."

"I hope that in the past year or year and a half, that these young kids have learned from me and that I can give them a little bit, not off the pitch, just on it. We have got the young kids coming through and I want to get an example to them on the pitch. I might misbehave now and again — maybe that is in Paul Gascoigne — but if I can show them what I am capable of on the pitch, that might help them."

"God knows what these young players will be like in four or five years time when the next World Cup comes around, but let's make them proud of being Englishmen again. My only other concern between now and next summer is to keep the little sods off my back and to try to stop them taking my place."

Before he left, Gascoigne paid tribute to the contribution of Ian Wright. In one way, though, he was keen to distance himself from his friend. "He shed a few tears tonight," Gascoigne said, "but there was no way I was going to join him."



Ireland promise

Zola critical of foreign role

Brian Glanville elicits the post-match views of the Italy coach and players



Cesare Maldini: "We were up against a great team"

PUTTING on a brave face amid the latest Roman ruins, Italy's besieged coach, Cesare Maldini, said: "We suffered a lot, because we found ourselves up against a great team, but I have nothing to say to my players. They fought really well, even if we encountered some difficulties in the first half, especially in midfield, where we could have done better."

"We created few scoring chances because they shut down the spaces very well, but England were not dangerous either. However, I repeat, I don't have to reproach anyone for anything. They were all really good."

"I tried to make all the

changes possible. Unfortunately, my son, Paolo, was injured, but the team continued to attack. We couldn't do more than that. I started with Inzaghi to keep the team on the attack and give more support to Vieri. That was not enough, either. We are talking about difficult games, which can be won on certain incidents. Unfortunately for us, it did not go well."

"We did everything possible, not only this time but in the preceding games. We won at Wembley, the English drew

with us here. The truth is that, in six games, we got three wins and three draws, yet we have not qualified and this is an injustice that leaves a bad taste in the mouth. "In midfield, we suffered because we missed Di Matteo, who was suspended. Unfortunately, I have to repeat that in this area we have many difficulties, because in Italy there are so many foreigners in the most important teams playing those roles. And in a year, or a year and a half, the problems will be still greater."

Paolo Maldini said: "Now, we are psychologically destroyed. And I am also physically destroyed. I badly twisted my ankle. It's giving me tremendous pain and I hope it won't cause me to miss too many matches."

"Unfortunately, we failed in our first mission. Fortunately, we still have a lifeline. Unfortunately, we paid for our psychological uneasiness, which became more obvious as the minutes passed. Our state of mind was completely different from theirs — and this had considerable weight."

Gianfranco Zola was a disappointing and disappointed figure. "I don't make magic," he said. "I work and always try to do well. I succeed when we are all good. At the Olympic Stadium, I and all the rest were less good. I would have given my finger to win this game. I played as Maldini wanted. We spoke and I told him going back into midfield I'd have difficulty — and so it was. In that position, I do less. At the start, I tried to stay up to put them in trouble, but we suffered in midfield and I had to drop back. My performance was limited by this. There are no excuses, it is just the truth."

"The English did well to run the game. We lacked a man in

midfield, so that I had to drop back to help Albertini and Dino Baggio. In effect, I found myself running after Barry like a madman. In such conditions, I burnt up precious energy. Let us tell the truth, I was neither fish nor fowl. I say honestly, to play such a role it would have been better to have had another player than Zola."

Alessandro Del Piero said: "A draw was good for them and they played accordingly. So much possession, but it seemed they only had a couple of shots. When you think how things went and that we took four out of six points from the team, the bitterness becomes almost intolerable."

And the penalty he did not get after Adams's tackle? "It was a gigantic fake. Did you see? I got up at once and apologised to the referee."

Alessandro Costacurta, the sweeper, said: "The referee certainly did not like us. But the draw with England, one of the strongest teams in the world, could suit us. We go on to the play-offs. I wouldn't bet on our not qualifying."

For his part, Filippo Inzaghi, unexpectedly used from the start as a striker, said: "I was exhausted. I gave those 45 minutes. We were everything. We didn't manage to catch them up, and in those conditions, it is difficult to get through a packed defence. I have to smile, bitterly, thinking of the forecasts before the game, which imagined we would see an England who would come to Olympico to play us on level terms."

"Quite the reverse. They closed up in midfield, packed their defence and waited for us — perfectly logical from their point of view. They turned it into a battle and luckily I didn't get an elbow from Campbell. They and, as the minutes passed, they grew more confident. Now two

Italian press excoriate 'timorous' Maldini

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

REACTION

"A HARD lesson" was the front-page headline in *La Stampa*, the Turin daily, after the hard night that Italy endured in Rome against England on Saturday. And a very hard press they got the next day.

Roberto Benetton, in *La Stampa*, proclaimed: "An English lesson. There are ways and ways of surrendering to the enemy, above all when you play in a den like the Olympic, with the memories of magic nights still alive."

"Cesare Maldini's Italy chose the most famous way, giving England the draw that the Masters fully deserved..." For Glenn Hoddle's team, then, the World Cup has been a brilliantly accomplished mission.

Inside was the headline "A collective shipwreck" and the sub-heading "Cesare Maldini alternates five strikers, but no one shoots."

The headline in *Corriere dello Sport*, the Roman sports daily, was perhaps the most damning of all. It read simply "Povera Italia". Poor Italy. In *Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Milan sports daily, the headline over the editorial by Candido Cannavaro, read "Courage drowned in a sea of impotence."

"Thank heaven," Cannavaro wrote, "that there are paralytics. Let's open them and not make the slightest mistake in our manoeuvres. Italy, football superpower, clings to a double play-off so as not to be out of the first World Cup of 32 teams. Do you hear the silence that comes from the Olympico? It is louder, more intense and painful than the choruses of the English."

"From the final scene, there emerges in a sinister way the sense of our impotence. Disappointed, very disappointed. The only adjective the national team can turn to is the most pathetic one: spirited, above all when they were down to ten. Dignity: the vital minimum."

"On the emotional level, the best of this game that had no great entertaining qualities came in injury time with a double dose of folly. Wright hitting the post of an

open goal. Vieri missing a tremendous chance. "With all respect to the quote 'conscience at peace' that Maldini talked about, it's impossible to disguise a failure: there was no real play and consequently, no real ability to attack."

Inside the paper, Lodovico Maradei, its chief football correspondent, was no less stringent. "Dominated in midfield and impotent in attack, the Azzurri scarcely shot at goal. One real chance. In injury time is too meagre to deserve qualification."

"A failure all along the line. The English came to Rome for a decisive point and they got it with extreme aplomb. When we were

down to ten men, they could have won, but contented themselves with controlling the game against an opponent that managed to explore nothing but its own impotence."

Predictably, there was abundant coverage of the violent excesses of English fans. The *Corriere della Sera* wrote: "The hooligans spread terror even in the centre of Rome. Bars destroyed, passers-by attacked. A heavy final reckoning. Thirty injured, the most seriously a policeman with a cranial trauma. Forty arrests, 100 detained."

Tuttosport, the Turin daily, had the headline "A Long Day of Madness, signed by the hooligans". It went on: "This had been an open city for 3,000 years, so Rome didn't even resist the semi-hooligan invasion of the English fans."

Three Englishmen who hit the policeman with a seat were arrested. In the area where clashes took place, there were members of the National Front... It was organisation at the stadium that failed. One group, some of them drunk, with tickets for the terraces, finished in the directors' box. Three hundred fans with tickets didn't get in."

Significantly, a headline in the paper read "Zola a ghost, Ince heroic". *Corriere dello Sport* lamented: "We enter World Cup purgatory without believing it. Only eight months have passed since Zola took us past the fear of Wembley... We got out, moreover, without ever really having risked trying to win, against a real team, much better-organised than ours, which finished by coming closer to a goal than ever Italy did in the 90 minutes."

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Kevin McCarra on the unequivocal backing that smoothed Scotland's safe passage to France

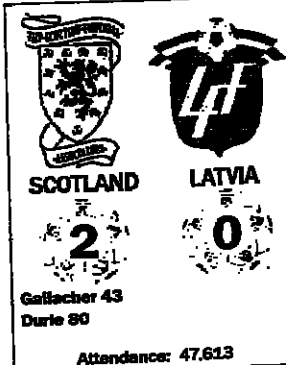
Rapport in a storm aids Brown's cause

SUPPORTERS of Scottish football often suspect that hands are intended to be wrung in agitation rather than joined in applause. The nature of their national team's qualification for the 1998 World Cup finals was therefore fitting, if agonising. A reservoir of alcohol was drained on Saturday night, but it will not have been sufficient to sludge away the memories of a frenetic 2-0 victory over Latvia at Celtic Park.

Only in retrospect, when the video of the tie can be watched dispassionately, is it obvious that the visitors posed very little threat. At the match itself, anxiety arose from the discrepancy between the outlook of the audience and the attitude of the side that they hoped to acclaim.

A big crowd carries immense expectations. There were 47,613 excited people in the stands and if salutes were not waved aloft or printed on T-shirts, they were painted on faces. Nationalist fervour, although entirely good-humoured, was rampant and few were prepared to witness Scotland being circumspect. Nonetheless, the determination of the players to be cautious was a virtue rather than a character flaw.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, had anticipated that Latvia would display a husky obstinacy. His own team was asked to be prudent, with Paul Lambert even detailed to mark Vladimir Babicevs in midfield, and to ensure that the opposition did not



score. It was rightly assumed that Scotland would devise a goal of their own sooner or later.

The squad is schooled in such disciplines, but restraint is more difficult for a supporter to muster.

First there was the wait for Scotland to find the net, which ended in the 43rd minute, when Kevin Gallacher headed home after Oleg Karavajevs, the Latvia goalkeeper, failed to hold a firm drive from John Collins. Then there was a long period of torment as the mind played tricks and it became easy to imagine a fluke equaliser that would rob Scotland of the victory they needed. Release from the mental labyrinth came only in the eightieth minute, when Gallacher's exquisite chip dropped from the crossbar, allowing Durie to head a second goal.

Gradually, however, a nation is finding it in its heart to love this methodical team. Scotland will

take their place at the World Cup finals for the fifth time since 1974, a record that is bettered only by the leading nations who occasionally spare themselves the drudgery of qualification by entering the tournament as hosts or holders.

Brown's side travels to France only as the best runners-up from the nine European groups, but inferiority will not be acknowledged since Austria, who finished above them, could only draw with Scotland in Vienna and lose in Glasgow. As status is maintained, it becomes easier to develop affection for the discipline and strategy that Scotland possess in abundance.

All five of the qualifying matches at home have been sell-outs and if the demented patriotism of 1978, which persuaded much of the population that the World Cup was about to be won, has evaporated, the bond between a country and its team has still been renewed. Once the game against Latvia was over, fans could concede that Brown's approach had yet again been vindicated.

Since the qualifying matches for Euro 96 began, his Scotland team have lost only three matches in the most important tournaments — to Greece, in Athens; to England, at Wembley; and to Sweden, in Gothenburg. As a tactician and a judge of footballers, Brown has brought extraordinary discrimination to his job. He has also found



Gallacher cannot hide his elation after scoring the goal that put Scotland ahead against Latvia. Photograph: Owen Humphrys

men whose talents continue to be undervalued.

Gallacher, for example, has now scored six times in Scotland's past five fixtures, a sequence that even Ronaldo might covet. The Blackburn Rovers forward has, nonetheless, been able to prosper only because Brown persevered with him. Before this burst of effective-

ness, another manager might have become disenchanted with a player who had produced only two goals in 28 appearances.

The Scotland attackers, however, are fortunate, finding the strain upon them relieved by a defence — with Colin Calderwood, Colin Hendry and Jim Leighton often at its heart — that has kept a

clean-sheet in 16 of the past 19 matches in the principal tournaments. Add the expertise of Gary McAllister, Lambert and Collins in midfield and it becomes clear that Brown has quietly amassed substantial resources.

Few opponents are under any illusion regarding Scotland's prowess. Yesterday, Brown flew to

France to begin assessing possible accommodation, but he has also started to ponder the composition of the party that will accompany him there next summer. The hope that Scotland can advance beyond the opening stage of the World Cup finals for the first time has its roots in Brown's restless intelligence.

arsden's
first goal
es off his
old club

Carsley provides positive side to negative exercise

Ireland 1
Romania 1

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON
IN DUBLIN

IT WAS one of the more earnest questions of a distinctly light-hearted press conference. "Why," the Romanian journalist asked, "was the game not shown live on television back home?" Anghel Iordanescu, the Romania coach, smiled amid the general laughter. "I do not know," he replied, trying, yet failing, to show respect for the sincerity of the inquiry. "We are very sorry it was not transmitted."

The good citizens of Bucharest and beyond did not miss much. Ireland and Romania turned up at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, in front of 31,000 hardy Irish souls, and at least concluded their programmes in group eight of the 1998 World Cup.

George Hagi scored his 32nd goal in 107 internationals for Romania and Tony Cascarino registered his nineteenth in 74 for Ireland — one short of Frank Stapleton's record. Everybody got cold and wet in the monsoon conditions; everybody enjoyed an essentially futile exercise; everybody went home happy. The phone war ended without casualties.

It was always going to be so. Romania arrived in Dublin with a 100 per cent record from nine matches and had long since won the group. Ireland, depleted by injuries and the need to rest key players for fear

of suspensions, had as good as reached the play-offs as runners-up.

"It was a nothing match," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, conceded. "Motivation was difficult in the circumstances, for both sets of players, but I felt we did quite well and it was a fair result."

Romania will go on, and perhaps prosper in France, if their collectively ageing limbs can cope with the frenetic pace. For Ireland, the play-offs beckon and much will depend on how kind the draw is in Zurich this afternoon.

McCarthy, though, should be encouraged. Romania may have played with an air of almost casual indifference, yet his mix-and-match selection covered themselves in credit. Only three players started from the side that had beaten Lithuania 2-1, effectively securing the play-off place: in Vilnius last month, No Given, Keane, Staunton, Townsend, Cunningham, Harte, Gary Kelly, Irwin or Connolly. Sev-

en of McCarthy's chosen 11 can barely hold down regular places in their club sides. Houghton captained his country for the first time in 71 matches and Carsley, the Derby County midfielder player, made his debut. Strange bedfellows they might have been, but they competed vigorously and revealed possible options to McCarthy that he had not previously considered.

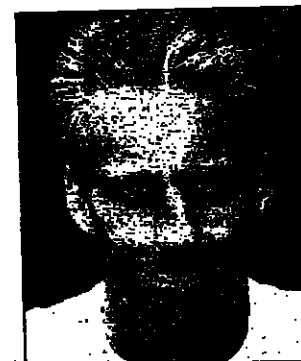
Carsley attracted most attention. He began nervously, poor of touch and unsure of his exact role, but finished strongly. He never hid or surrendered, even when the ball kept squirming embarrassingly from his possession on the greasy surface, and he has energy to burn.

Hagi, 32, cannot have much gas left in the tank, but there is still venom in his left foot, as he demonstrated when swerving a 35-yard free kick past Alan Kelly in the 54th minute. Ireland deservedly equalised six minutes from the end. Kennedy's corner was headed on by Babb, then Breen before Cascarino stooped to nod past Stelica from close range.

IRELAND (3-4-1-2): A Kelly (Sheff Wed) — J Keane (Sheff Wed), G Breen (County), P Babb (Liverpool) — J McAuley (Luton), L Carsley (Derby), R Houghton (Reading), T Preece (Exeter), sub: P Fleming (Middlesbrough), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth), sub: D Kelly, Tormer, Rovers, G Kennedy (Luton), A Cascarino (Nancy), sub: M Evans, Southampton, 65).

ROMANIA (3-3-3-2): S Stelica (Internacional) — D Petrescu (Chelsea), A Dobos (AEK Athens), L Ciobotaru (Middlesbrough) — G Popescu (Colchester), C Calciu (Exeter), T Selymes (Andersherg) — G Hagi (Colchester), sub: I Dumitrescu, Atlanta, 84, D Murtesanu (Cologne) — V Moldovan (Grasshopper Zurich), sub: I Filipescu, Gateshead, 62, A Be (Colchester), sub: M Lacatus, Steaua Bucharest, 76.

Referee: N Levnikov (Russia).



McCarthy: options

Giggs expresses hope for Wales's future

Belgium 3
Wales 2

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN BRUSSELS

RYAN GIGGS, the acting Wales captain here on Saturday, believes that the young players from his country can help him to realise his dream of playing in the World Cup finals. The Manchester United winger is convinced that, despite their defeat here in group seven, better things lie ahead.

Giggs himself led from the front with a superlative performance as Wales came back from 3-0 down to give the home team, second in the group and thus into the play-offs, a real fright. Wales had been expected to roll over nicely for Belgium, giving them a pleasant confidence boost.

It was Giggs's first game as captain of Wales and no one could have done more for the cause. He scored one goal, was brought down for a penalty and might well have had two more penalties given for fouls against him.

"From what I have seen of

the younger players coming through for Wales, I feel confident that they can become a team good enough to qualify for the finals of either the next World Cup or European championship," Giggs said. It is nearly 40 years since Wales qualified for the World Cup finals — in Sweden in 1958 — but Giggs was optimistic despite this defeat.

"We will always score goals," he said. "We have scored six in our last two away games in Turkey and Belgium. There is real hope for the future now."

"We have to be optimistic. Being a Welshman, I have to feel that way. I believe the players we have in the squad at the moment and some of the youngsters coming through from the under-21s can only get better."

Wales: F de Wilde, E Dellarida, S De Ridder (all Bruges), R Edwards (Bristol City), J Robinson (Charlton Athletic), K Reilly (Queens Park Rangers), J Pennington (Sheff Wednesday), R Berge (Leicester City), D Saunders (Nottingham Forest), J Harrison (West Ham United), sub: G Taylor, Sheff Wed, 91, C Hughes (Wrexham), sub: R Page, Wrexham, 40, R Giggie (Manchester United), sub: V Mado Pechin (Portugal).

Hamilton will put his country first

BRYAN HAMILTON said yesterday that he will only accept a new contract as manager of Northern Ireland if it is "right" for the team. His contract, signed in 1994, expires next summer and he is to open talks with the Irish Football Association about a new deal.

"I must weigh up and assess whether I can affect the progress of Northern Ireland football, which is of the utmost importance to me," he said. "I am sure whatever happens it will be in Northern Ireland's best interests. That must be the overriding concern — not Bryan Hamilton."

Northern Ireland completed their World Cup qualifying group nine campaign with a 1-0 defeat in Portugal. Sergio Conceicao scored the only goal after 17 minutes in the Stadium of Light in Benfica to leave Northern Ireland with just one win and seven points from their ten matches.

PORTUGAL: Sérgio, P Santos, Helder, Quaresma, F Costa, P Sousa, F Pinto, Paulista (all Benfica), S Conceicao (Sub. Dard, 70), Diniz.

NORTHERN IRELAND: A Pettie, I Nolan, S Morrow, C Hill (all Celtic), G McKelvey, 77, G Teggan, S Lavery, J Maguire, M Lavery (all Celtic), J McCarthy, 77, J Downe, R Horlock, M Hughes.

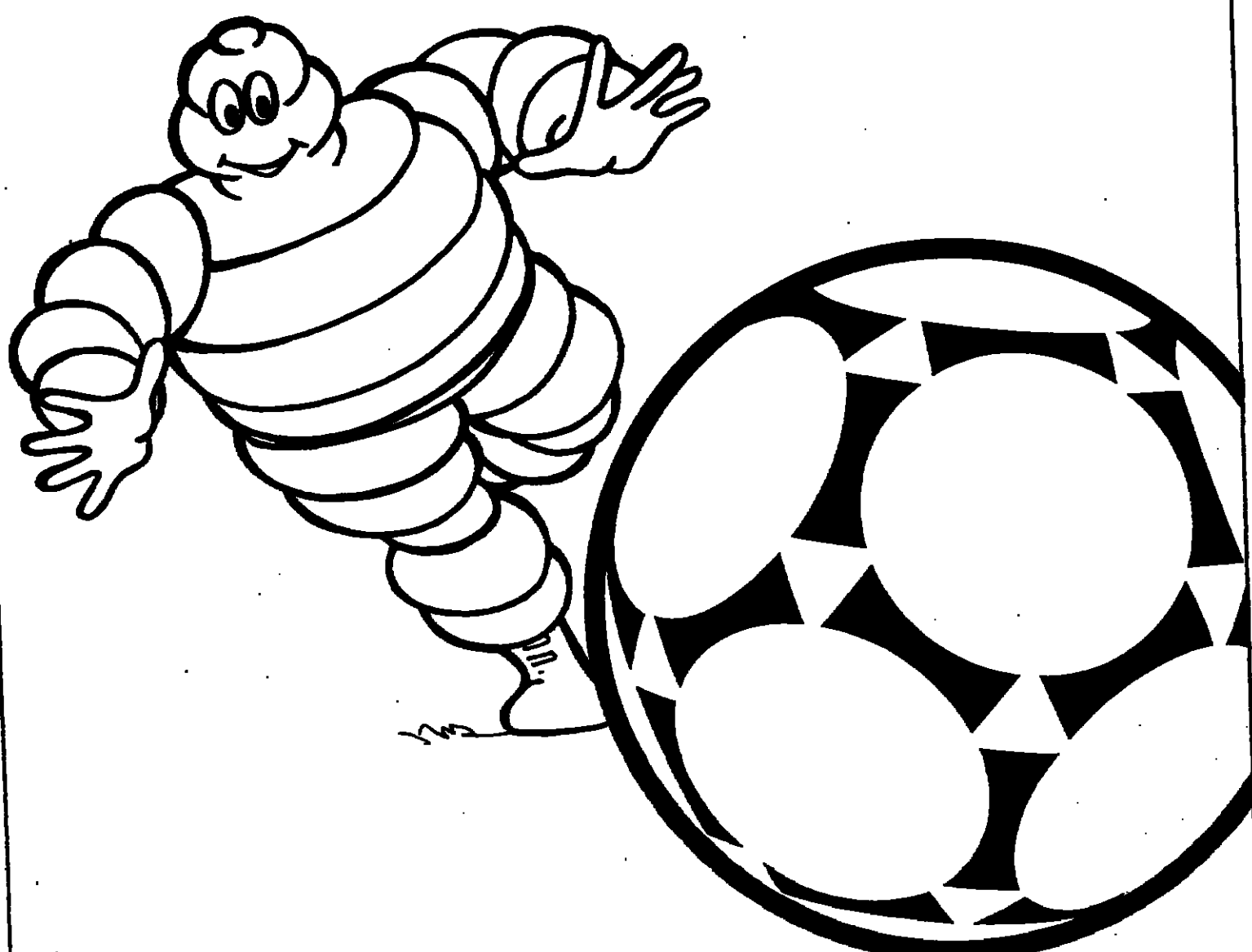
Referee: P Mikkelsen (Denmark).

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set sights
successes

WELL DONE LADS!



Congratulations
to England and Scotland from Michelin,
official tyre of the 1998 World Cup.



EUROPEAN QUALIFYING GROUPS FOR THE 1998 WORLD CUP FINALS

EUROPE

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	5	2	1	2	14	17	7
Slovenia	4	2	1	1	12	15	7
Greece	3	2	2	1	11	14	8
Bosnia	3	0	3	1	9	14	3
Slovenia	3	0	1	7	5	20	1

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	3	1	1	15	2	10
England	4	3	1	1	11	18	10
Poland	3	2	1	1	10	12	7
Malta	3	0	0	3	2	21	0

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Belgium	3	2	1	1	11	12	7
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	12	1

GROUP FOUR

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Spain	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
Sweden	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Denmark	3	2	1	1	11	12	7
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	12	1

GROUP FIVE

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Italy	5	3	1	1	15	2	10
England	4	3	1	1	11	18	10
Poland	3	2	1	1	10	12	7
Malta	3	0	0	3	2	21	0

GROUP SIX

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Spain	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
Sweden	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
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Finland	3	0	1	2	3	12	1

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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Finland	3	0	1	2	3	12	1

GROUP EIGHT

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1; Yugoslavia 6 Malta 0; Faeroe
1 Slovakia 2; Faeroe Islands 2 Spain
Czech Republic 6 Malta 0; Slovakia 6 Malta
Faeroe Islands 1 Yugoslavia 8; Czech
0 Spain 0; Slovakia 3 Faeroe
Islands 0; Yugoslavia 1 Czech Republic 0;

Irvine sacrifices maiden victory to put Italian team in sight of first drivers' title for 18 years

Schumacher pushes Ferrari to the brink

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN SUZUKA

WHEN the credits rolled on the latest instalment of sport's most lavish soap opera yesterday afternoon, Michael Schumacher was poised to become Ferrari's first world champion for a generation. The script for the Japanese Grand Prix matched nobility with stupidity and complemented low cunning with high ideals.

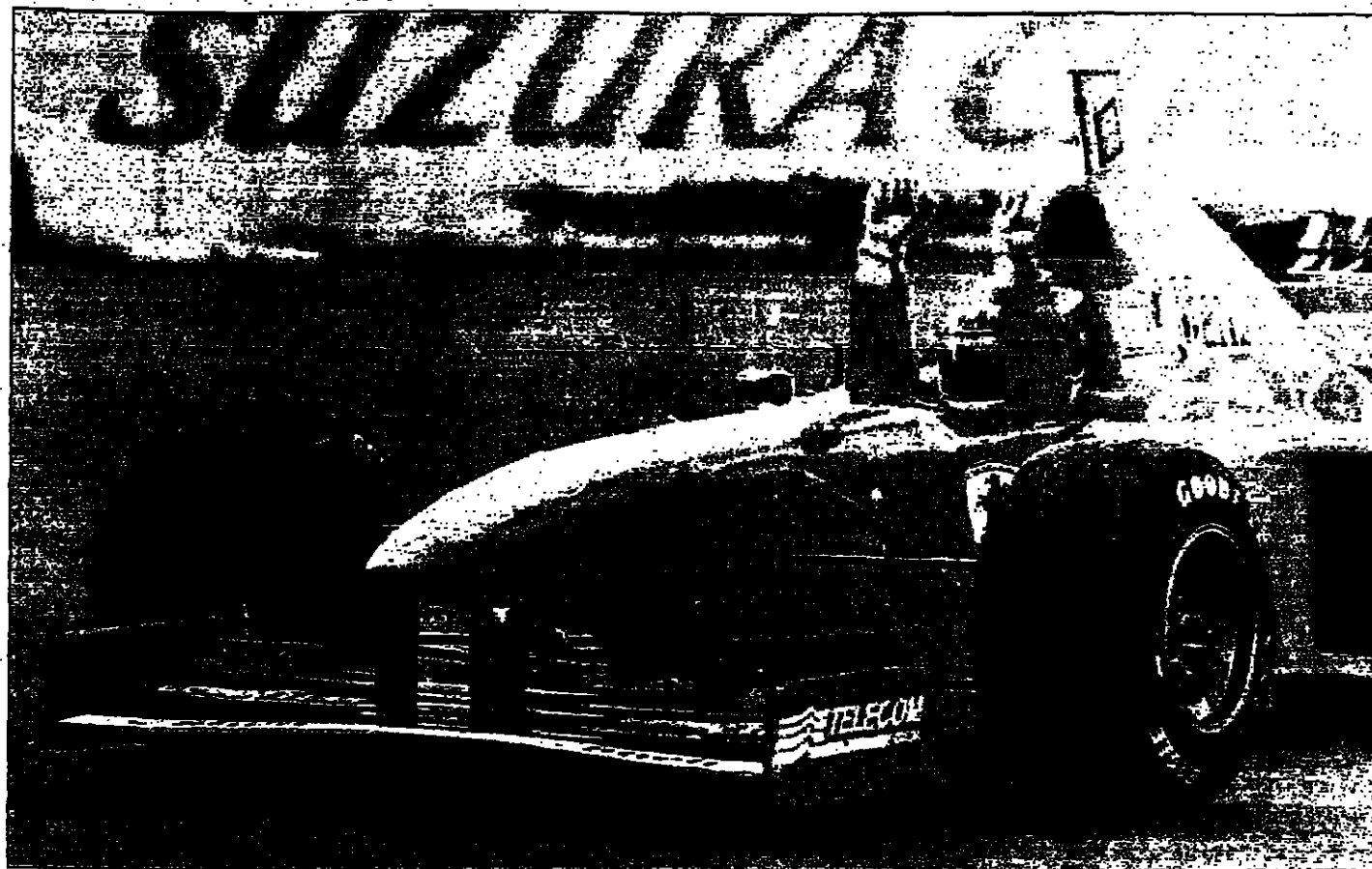
Victory nominally leaves Schumacher a point behind Jacques Villeneuve entering the final race in Jerez on October 26, but anyone who believes that the Canadian will keep the two points he won by finishing fifth at Suzuka is suffering from severe delusions. The FIA motor sports' global governing body has never before tolerated the type of appeal that allowed Villeneuve to race under protest in Japan and is likely to impose a swinging fine, when it meets in Paris later this week, to deter any challenge to its authority.

Formula One prides itself on its ability to exaggerate the emotions, its capacity to employ millionaire drivers in a rough-and-ready morality play that caters for television's millions in a digitalised age. Jerez and a direct head-to-head between the contrasting characters of Schumacher and Villeneuve is the stuff of a marketing executive's fantasy.

It was set up perfectly yesterday by what Schumacher regarded as the most satisfying of his 27 wins. It enshrined the rare selflessness of Eddie Irvine, who sacrificed the first victory of his career for his Ferrari team-mate, and the all-too-familiar failings of Villeneuve, who has come to rue his status as the sport's enfant terrible.

There was a poignant futility about his efforts from the moment, on Saturday morning, that he ignored a yellow flag, warning of a stricken Tyrrell parked on the grass alongside the main straight. It was his fourth such offence of the season and though an appeal against disqualification enabled him to take pole position, he looked nervous and ill-at-ease.

The start was a study in the limitations of aggression. Ville-



Schumacher has two hands in the air and one on the championship after winning in Suzuka. Photograph: Clive Mason / Allsport

neuve threw his Williams-Renault to his right, to block Schumacher, and then veered sharply left in response to the German's secondary attempt to have a free run at the first corner. As Irvine told his colleague, with a gentle chuckle: "He tried to put you in the grandstand."

Schumacher was not exactly sanguine — "It was not the correct thing to do and could have been very dangerous" — but he had conditioned himself to guerrilla tactics. He and Irvine had planned their strategy in the morning, when the Irishman pledged to put to collective use the experience gained during three years of racing in Formula 3000 in Japan.

Irvine made his initial move on the second lap, overtaking Mika

Hakkinen and Schumacher on the outside. A lap later, he passed Villeneuve under braking on entry to the final chicane. He was soon more than 12 seconds in the lead, as the Canadian gambled by slowing deliberately to expose Schumacher to the chasing pack.

The threat was more subtle, but no less deadly. Villeneuve bracketed his rival twice and veered on the edge of acceptable conduct when he emerged from his pit stop at the end of the twentieth lap. Schumacher, accelerating to 190mph towards the end of the main straight, suddenly found the Williams in his path.

"It was quite critical, because Jacques came across the road and tried to close the door," Schumacher said. "There could

have been a severe accident, but I managed to dive inside him."

The race was effectively over as a contest from that moment, which left Villeneuve vulnerable to brilliantly-executed Ferrari teamwork. He had problems with his fuel supply during his second pitstop and fell to fifth, where he was consumed by the cumulative frustrations of a traumatic weekend.

Irvine, to use his own expression, was "waiting for the phone to ring" so that he could allow Schumacher to take the lead. It was a strangely symbolic gesture, an eloquent answer to those critics who had been agitating for his replacement by Gerhard Berger, who is surplus to Benetton's requirements.

Villeneuve, however, was singularly unimpressed. "I find it diffi-

cult to accept that a driver can give up his first victory, but if he's ready to do that, fine," he said. "It was frustrating to race anyway, knowing that there was a good chance of being disqualified."

Schumacher, as expected, was rather more enthusiastic. "It is thanks to him that I have this victory," he said. "I have always said he is a great driver and a great team-mate. He threw away a chance of winning and I'm grateful." Irvine, who at least had the grace to appear embarrassed by his largesse, argued: "It's fair to support Michael. I'm sure he'll return the favour."

Schumacher eventually won with relative ease. His cushion over the persistent Heinz-Harald Frentzen, whose second place

SUZUKA DETAILS

RESULTS: 1. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1hr 29min 48.446sec (av 120.620mph). 2. H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1:37.8. 3. E. Irvine (Ir, Ferrari) 1:38.294. 4. M. Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:39.128. 5. J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:40.402. 6. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Peterson) 1:41.030. 7. G. Bergin (Aus, Benetton-Renault) 1:41.035. 8. G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:41.035. 9. G. Bergin (Aus, Benetton-Renault) 1:41.035. 10. R. Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:42.036. Did not finish: D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 32 laps completed. D. Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 32. P. Druet (Fr, Arrows-Yamaha) 32. J. Verstappen (Hol, Tyrrell-Ford) 32. T. Marques (Br, Minardi-Hart) 40. M. Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 46. G. Pavesi (It, Prost Mugen-Honda) 38. S. Nakano (Jpn, Prost Mugen-Honda) 22. U. Katajama (Jpn, Minardi-Hart) 19. R. Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 17. J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 3. Fastest lap: Frentzen 1min 38.942sec.

QUALIFYING: 1. Villeneuve 1min 36.07 (av 120.620mph). 2. M. Schumacher 1:36.153. 3. Irvine 1:36.450. 4. Hakkinen 1:36.459. 5. Bergin 1:36.561. 6. Frentzen 1:36.628. 7. Salo 1:36.682. 8. Herbert 1:36.829. 9. Fisichella 1:36.917. 10. Pavesi 1:37.073. 11. Coulthard 1:37.086. 12. Barrichello 1:37.343. 13. Verstappen 1:37.445. 14. Magnussen 1:37.480. 15. Nakano 1:37.588. 16. Druet 1:37.588. 17. Hill 1:38.022. 18. Montecarlo 1:38.036. 19. Katajama 1:38.063. 20. Marques 1:38.078. 21. Verstappen 1:40.259. 22. Salo 1:40.529.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Villeneuve 76pts, 2. M. Schumacher 78. 3. Frentzen 41. 4. Salo 38. 5. Coulthard 30. 6. Bergin 24. 7. Pavesi 22. 8. Fisichella 20. 9. Hakkinen 17. 10. Pavesi 16. 11. Herbert 14. 12. R. Schumacher 13. 13. Hill 7. 14. Barrichello 5. 15. A. Wurz (Austria) 4. 16. J. Trulli (It) 3. 17. Salo Nakano and Druet 2. 20. N. Larini (It) 1. Constructors: 1. Williams 129. 2. Ferrari 102. Benetton 63. 4. McLaren 47. Jordan 33. 6. Prost 21. 7. Sauber 15. 8. Arrows 9. 9. Stewart 6. 10. Tyrrell 2.

POSITIONS will remain provisional until the International Automobile Federation's court of appeals renders an appeal by Jacques Villeneuve against a disqualification imposed for violating yellow-flag rules in his practice on Saturday. The hearing is to be held in the next two weeks.

Head adds to fears of Villeneuve

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN

THE mutual suspicion that threatens to reduce the Formula One world championship to the lowest common denominator of personal abuse deepened last night, when the sportsmanship of Michael Schumacher was openly questioned by Patrick Head, the technical director of the Williams team. Head broke a self-imposed silence to accuse Schumacher of deliberately running into Damon Hill at the 1994 Australian Grand Prix, which enabled the German to claim the first of his two drivers' titles. His apparent purpose, to raise the prospect of an identical incident at the final race of this season, in Jerez in 13 days, will inevitably cause offence.

Schumacher was a single point ahead of Hill three years ago and Head accepts that a similar scenario is likely after the hearing this week into how Jacques Villeneuve, after his disqualification from the Japanese Grand Prix, was allowed to take part.

"The man who goes into the last race in the lead is in a position where he can be very aggressive with the person behind," he said. "I believe that happened to Damon in 1994. I believe that was a deliberate removal of a competitor. The man who goes into the last race with less points has to be very careful challenging for the lead."

Villeneuve added weight to the implication by adding: "If I am a point behind, all Michael or Irvine have to do is take me off and the championship is lost." That compelled Irvine to deny any malicious intent. "There's no way I'd have him off deliberately," he said. "But if he wants to be stupid in a 50-50 situation, I won't give way."

The hype will intensify in the build-up to the European Grand Prix, where Villeneuve seems likely to paint himself as a victim of authority. "OK, Formula One is a business," he said, "but, as a driver, you are in it for the sport. When the stakes are so high, it can be difficult to accept."

BOXING: EUBANK DISCOVERS PUNCHING POWER OF OUTSTANDING WELSH SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT AS HAMED CRUISES TO EASY VICTORY OVER No 1 CONTENDER

Calzaghe offers credentials to be undisputed champion

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH boxing has a new star — Joe Calzaghe, of Wales. The unbeaten 25-year-old, from Newbridge, Gwent, had always promised much but had never been able to convince experts that he could live up to his claim of being the best super-middleweight in the world.

However, after outpointing Chris Eubank and lifting the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title on Saturday, he left his critics in no doubt that he is potentially capable of being the undisputed world champion, possibly the first from Great Britain

since Lloyd Honeyghan beat Don Curry 11 years ago.

He showed that he had the stamina, heart, determination and chin to take him all the way to the top. His performance was so impressive that not only did it overshadow that of Naseem Hamed, who was heading the bill at Sheffield Arena, defending his WBO featherweight championship against Jose Badillo, of Puerto Rico, but, immediately after Calzaghe's bout, Frank Warren, the promoter, added him to his promotion in Madison Square Garden in December, where Hamed will once again head the card, most probably against Kevin Kelley, of New York.

Calzaghe's victory was particularly satisfying because he had prepared to meet Steve Collins, who retired last week. The styles of Collins and Eubank are completely different, yet the Welshman not only outpointed Eubank by huge margins of up to eight rounds on three judges' cards, but beat him as well, a feat that nobody had been able to achieve in the 12 years that Eubank has been boxing.

Calzaghe also became the first man to floor Eubank twice, in the first round and the tenth. Admittedly, Eubank is not the fighter that he used to be, but he fought fiercely all the way, standing toe-to-toe for several rounds. It was not surprising, therefore, that

as soon as Eubank reached his dressing-room, he said: "That Steve Collins must have known something I didn't know."

Later, rubbing his swollen face, he praised Calzaghe. "When he knocked me down in the first, it was a very hard punch," Eubank said. "He is determined, strong and an exceptional fighter. I think he will prove that fact. If he couldn't fight, he would not have been able to hurt me as he did."

Calzaghe said: "If it was my second or third defence, I would have stopped him. I was lacking in experience, but there's more to come."

Eubank is likely to carry on as a light-heavyweight. "I'm not happy

unless I am performing," he said, "whether I'm driving my truck, or strutting the street, or twiddling my cane or fighting. I'll be back in my fighting capacity."

Hamed's bout was a one-sided affair from the first round against a brave but limited No 1 contender. Badillo was unable to land a clean punch on the elusive champion. Hamed stopped him in the seventh round, after punishing him severely, round after round, with searing jabs that came up from below like uppercuts. It was a good, well-controlled performance that sent the 13,000 crowd into raptures.

Later, claiming that neither Willie Pep nor Sandy Sadler

would have been able to beat him, Hamed added: "I don't care about Madison Square Garden. I don't care about anything. All I care about is banging somebody out. I don't care who it is or where it is."

Kelley, who was at ringside, was eager to be Hamed's next opponent. Now 30 and well past his best, which was in the days when Paul Hodgkinson, of Liverpool, was at his feet, he said he was not particularly intimidated by Hamed's performance. "Styles make fights," he said. "I have the style to beat him. Remember Michael Moorer against George Foreman. One punch and it could be over. No man is invincible."



Hamed: clear winner

BASKETBALL

Finger can point to problem

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF BIRMINGHAM Bulls are to capture the Budweiser League championship for the first time, they will win it without concern for their coach's health. It has been by narrow, nervous margins of three points, two, two, ten and four points that Mike Finger has seen his unbeaten squad win their five games this season.

The last success, by 78-74 at Worthing Bears on Saturday, came after the Bulls had reeled off the last nine points. Only when Tony Dorsey deposited a jump shot with 2min 17sec left, taking his tally to 27 points, did they go ahead. "They can't continue to play that poorly and put that much pressure on themselves and expect to win too many big games," Finger said.

Worthing had controlled the game, leading by 13 points in the third quarter, thanks chiefly to Ryan Williams, who scored 28 points.

Chris Haslam and H.L. Coleman shared 29 points for the Bulls. Haslam is English and the national squad could do with him for next month's European championship qualifiers.

Crystal Palace's 90-86 victory over Derby Storm left Watford Royals as the only club without a win. Neither do they have a coach. In the absence of Dana Beszczynski, who he dismissed last week, the Royals' owner, Vince Macaulay-Razzaq, took over for the 84-56 defeat by Manchester Giants.

Results, page 40

SPORT IN BRIEF

Crutchley's goals help Cannock to set pace

CANNOCK and Hounslow are the only teams with 100 per cent records after three rounds of matches in men's hockey's National League (Sydney Friskin writes). Crutchley scored twice for Cannock in the 8-1 defeat of Doncaster yesterday to add to his three goals on Saturday against Beeston.

Hounslow scrambled to a 2-1 home win yesterday against East Grinstead — Hannah scoring the decisive goal in the 56th minute — after thrashing Teddington 6-1 on Saturday. Yesterday, Teddington went down 7-2 at Trent Park to Southgate, who remain unbeaten. Reading, the title-holders, are in seventh place after a draw against Old Loughtonians. Results, page 40

Price finds right mix

BOWLS: John Price, the vice-chairman of the Professional Bowls Association, defeated Joyce Lindores, of Scotland, in the first round of the Bupa Care Homes Open at Preston yesterday, leaving three women to challenge the world's top men bowlers this week. The inclusion of four women in the field for the first event to be controlled by the newly-formed World Bowls Tour has attracted criticism from male competitors, but Price is not among them. "I would have lost if I played badly," he said.

Kettle scales heights

ROWING: Martin Kettle, rowing with his Queens Tower double sculls partner, Tom Gale, successfully defended his pairs Head of the River title on Saturday, holding off the Molesey combination of Greg Searle and Richard Stanhope by 5sec. With Emilie Haslov, of Denmark, at stroke, James Cracknell, the bow in Great Britain's world championship-winning four, won the mixed event by 23sec.

Neumann wins again

GOLF: Laura Davies, the Great Britain No 1, tied for fifteenth place behind Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, at the Takara Invitational in Yokoshiba, Japan. Davies carded a two-under-par final round of 70 for an eight-over-par total of 296, 14 shots behind Neumann, who won the event for the second time. Yuko Motoyama, of Japan, was second on 284.

Dangerfield beaten

CYCLING: Stuart Dangerfield suffered a rare defeat when he finished third in the 870-yard ascent of The Rake, near Holcombe in Lancashire, in the build-up to the defence of his British hill climb championship in a fortnight's time. Jeff Wright won in 2min 21.06sec, 4sec ahead of Jim Henderson. Dangerfield was a further 0.3sec behind.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles earn two-goal cup buffer

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

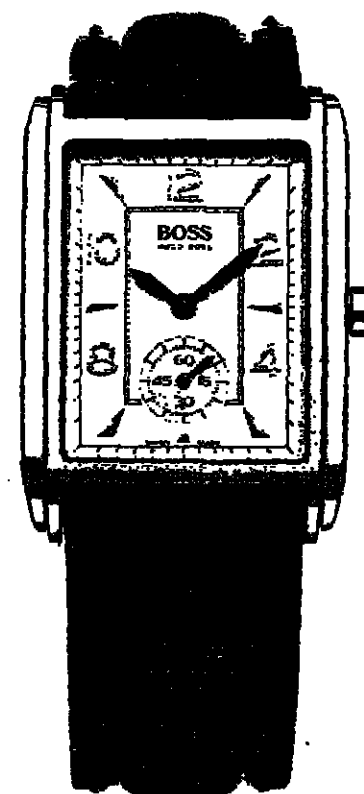
OF THE six teams involved in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals on Saturday, only Ayr Scottish Eagles will take a lead into the second leg next weekend after beating Nottingham Panthers 4-2. Newcastle Cobras and Basingstoke Bison drew 1-1 and Bracknell Bees and Manchester Storm 2-2.

The Panthers started quickly in Ayr with Derek Laxdal scoring after only 91sec. Mark Montanari brought the Scottish side level midway through the first period and the Eagles dominated the second session, with Karri Blette and Dennis Purdie giving them a 3-1 lead by the interval. Jamie Leach scored early in the third for the Panthers, but Montanari scored his second of the evening to restore the Eagles' two-goal margin.

The game in Newcastle was dominated by two well-organised defences and the teams combined for only 35 shots on goal in the 60 minutes. Brett Stewart gave Newcastle the lead in the first period, but Graham Garden levelled early in the third.

There was a scoreless first period in Bracknell, with Tom Gomes the first to find the target for the Bees after two minutes in the second period. Mike Morin scored for the Storm midway through this period. Brad Turner gave Manchester the lead early in the third, but Dave Whistle tied the score midway through the final session. In contrast to the match in Newcastle, both goalkeepers were kept busy.

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Caine and Sky succeed with the Italian mob

When they cover tennis, Italian broadcasters have a reputation for cutting away to the prettiest girl they can find in the crowd during breaks in the action. When it comes to important football matches, however, "sweet-aways" — as they are known by some — are sadly not an option. So when England took on Italy in the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Saturday, the local director had to improvise. And how.

Within the first ten minutes we had had umpire "agitated-Maldini-aways", several "injured-player-aways" and a slightly unsettling number of "Italian-VIPs-who-Martin-Tyler-couldn't-recognise-aways". And, thankfully, one he could, "Dino Zoff, there,"

he noted with relief, ending an uncomfortable run of pauses. "Lots of Italian reaction you are getting from our local coverage here," the man from BSkyB explained.

Minutes later, lots of a rather different kind of Italian reaction filled our screens as the first "riot-aways" of the night briefly interrupted the action. I let out a small cheer. After years of BBC Sport censoriously turning their cameras away from anything resembling a news story, here was a broadcaster prepared to show it how it was. Here, too, was a commentator with the sense to restrict himself to expressing regret rather than making instant judgments. "The sort of scenes we didn't want to bring you, but cannot avoid," Tyler said accurately

and commendably. Commendably, that is, until a few minutes later, when he launched into an ill-timed plug for world championship boxing.

Despite their name, "overnight" viewing figures for the game will not be available until today, but if Italy versus England does not beat the record for a cable or satellite programme (3.8 million, for the reciprocal game at Wembley in February), I shall be very surprised. And if somebody from Sky does not point out that those figures do not include those people who watched in pubs and clubs, I shall be even more surprised.

For the BBC, which had neither the live rights to the game nor the delayed terrestrial rights, which had gone to ITV, the match could have



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

been an excuse for a sulk, but it wasn't. *Football Focus* dedicated a substantial part of its time to the match, with Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley discussing it in that giant studio football, while Ray Stubbs reported from Rome. However, in the face of this generous coverage, the difference between the BBC and its satellite competition was still cruelly apparent.

Both broadcasters had thought of *The Italian Job* as a

linking gambit, but while on the BBC that came down to Lineker giving us his Michael Caine impersonation (there were a frightening few seconds when I hadn't a clue who he was supposed to be), on Sky that meant they had the man himself. "Glenn, I tried an Italian job, but didn't bring back the gold — you've got to do that for us."

Richard Keys, wearing the sort of headset that Desmond Lynam would not be seen

dead in, was visibly moved. "If your spine doesn't tingle tonight, it never will," he said. I checked mine. No tingle yet, but then there was still an hour and a half till kick-off. Plenty of time for tingles later.

The fact that they never arrived in any significant form is not the fault of Sky, which covered its most important sports event to date about as well as it could, given that the match was away and the pictures supplied were largely out of its control. Keys got a bit overexcited, but so does Lynam at moments of high patriotism, as we all recall from Euro 96.

Although the presence of Roy Hodgson alongside Bobby Robson was probably one distinguished international manager too many — by

contrast, ITV fielded the more balanced partnership of Terry Venables and John Barnes — the build-up was entertaining and tactically informative. The vital team news arrived at 7pm, giving Andy Gray plenty of time to shuffle blue and white counters around his green baize pitch. The one doubt seemed to be where to put the blue counter that was Inzaghi. As it turned out, not even Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, knew the answer to that.

In the commentary box, Tyler and Gray took turns to tempt fate. "Full of authority, full of style," Gray said of the England performance. "Mind you, I'm saying all these good things and there's still 25 minutes to go." Shortly afterwards, Del Piero fell over in

the England penalty box, an incident that Sky would replay only some 15 minutes after the game was over.

Eventually, the heady mix of patriotism and tension became too much for the normally reliable Tyler, especially after Le Saux squared up to an Italian defender. "Le Saux, a player with a French name, of course."

However, having plumbed the depths of silliness with that, Tyler then redeemed himself immediately after the game with a roll call of those players who had contributed to England's qualification but no longer seemed to feature in Glenn Hoddle's plans. "Barnaby, Le Tissier, Pearce..." Suddenly, I felt a strange feeling. It was my spine managing a small tingle after all.

"This was possibly as much a triumph for Vick inhalers as for the history of England football"

Italy fans submit without a whimper

Of all the excellent Colonel Bogey and Dambuster chants on Saturday night at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, there was one that, in retrospect, made the greatest sense. It was the one that goes: "You're supposed to be at home." It was meant to be aggressive, of course, but it was essentially fair comment, as well as an expression of incredible relief. Just as England's players were dominating the match, so England's fans were dominating the stadium with astonishing ease. This your place, is it? Very nice. Mm, soft cushions. Budge up. What's on the telly, then? Cup of tea would be nice; mine's got four sugars, ta.

This sensation of cuckoo-in-the-nest comfort was not how the evening had started out, however. For my own party of respectable fans, hosted by Carlsberg, I would say the main feeling on approaching that huge, impressive stadium was a sort of animal dread. I've never experienced the lambs-to-slaughter thing quite so strongly. Let off our coach in the nearest car park, we were escorted in near-silence by armed carabinieri in an excessively long route half a mile past the stadium and then half a mile back again.

It went on and on — this tiring trudge on a night much too warm for exercise. The worrying thing was, it felt like a trap. Around the next corner, I kept thinking we'd find ourselves trotting up a ramp on to a big train. Baa, baa. The doors would slam behind us (Baa?) and the next thing we knew, we'd be back at the airport, saying "How did that happen?" and "Did David Beckham recover OK?"

Put simply, the policing started out scary and remained scary. We kept telling ourselves all these loaded weapons and truncheons were intended for our protection, but we were just exercising our stiff upper lips. Violence inevitably erupted on the borders of the England enclosures and it should

LYNNE TRUSS



be no surprise to find that a graph of the baton charges would fit exactly with a graph of the game. The more exciting the play, the greater the number of shiny helmets invading the fans.

At half-time, all action (both on and off the pitch) stopped for a well-earned break, like trench warfare at Christmas in the First World War. Perhaps the two sides exchanged cigarettes and (oh yes!) played football. But when the whistle blew for the second half, the police got stuck right in again and the truce was at an end.

The astonishing thing about the evening, for me, was how little the violence mattered. It's a shameful admission, but an honest one. This was such a fabulous display of English football, supported with such gusto by the visiting fans, that strong-arm tactics in a remote part of the stadium was rather incidental. I had never seen this England team play with this combination of energy, control and sheer elegance; for once, the cheering was not just a message of blind Eng-land prejudice, but of genuine appreciation for a great



An emotional Ince turns to thank the massed England supporters for their vital contribution, which lifted the players, particularly in the last half-hour

great performance, for which I must quickly acquire grandchildren just so that I can tell them about the superlative passing in midfield.

So when the scuffles broke out, we would all nudge each other and make tut-tut noises and I would hand round the binoculars, but watching the scuffles instead of the match was simply not an option. It was like those moments when someone rings up during *East-Enders* (or whatever) and you snort with a laugh "Nice try", without bothering even to find out who it is.

Afterwards, they kept us in the stadium for about an hour, cunningly tiring us of our own

company as well as waiting for the Italians to disperse. Like many a disappointed crowd, the home fans vanished quickly, and you couldn't blame them. We'd been warned that a good way to avoid trouble afterwards (in the event of a good result for England) was to adopt protective colouring. "Look glum and Italian," we told each other, though honestly, even with all our years of accumulated national glumness, we hadn't the slightest idea on Saturday night where to start.

With football, you are allowed to have a short-term memory. You are allowed to exult in success without thinking about defeat around the last corner. I felt so proud of our boys on Saturday that when Sheringham and Beckham

hugged jubilantly for the cameras, I actually started crying. I have never watched England qualify for the World Cup before and if it's like this, I'd like to see it again. But mainly I was crying because I'd seen these people perform at their best. Beckham hasn't been at it well, you know. His flu was a national talking-point. What an especially noteworthy performance, in that case. This was possibly as much a triumph for Vick inhalers as for the history of England football.

What happened to the genuine glum Italians we never knew. The Italian crowds are noted, I believe, for a memory so frighteningly short that they will simply disown their team when the going gets tough. Presumably something like

this national amnesia was occurring on Saturday, when they failed utterly to motivate their players, other than with a bit of flag waving. True, there were a few banners, but a sheet with "Good evening bastards" raised only smug smiles and waves from the English fans. Yes, it was true. The Italians were not behaving as though they were at home. It was very, very odd.

Of course, we never did look glum and Italian, although we did a very good impression of tired-to-death, because in order to fly out same-day, many of us had been up since 1am. Kick-off was at 8.45pm local time and it was nearly midnight before they escorted us off the premises, on a route lined by stoney-faced marksman.

What's the Italian for "for heaven's sake, lighten up, it's only football"? I wonder? On second thoughts, I'm glad I don't know, or I might have been tempted to try it.

Throughout the evening, I kept remembering that long-ago New Statesman weekend competition, in which entrants were invited to supply dangerous advice for unwary travellers. "Try the famous echo in the British Museum reading room," was a particularly good one. Also: "In Britain a single yellow line means you can park for one hour; two lines means two hours." They should run this competition again. "In Rome, it is customary to knock the hats off the cheery carabinieri. They are recruited for their sense of fun and will always take it in good part."

SPORTS LETTERS

Behaviour and referees

From Mr G. Ralph

Sir, I must agree with Keith Atkinson's letter (Sports Letters, October 6) concerning the behaviour of footballers towards referees. Two weeks ago I played hockey on a recreation ground in a Kent village. On the two adjacent pitches games of football and rugby were being played. I and many of our players were stunned at the behaviour of the footballers towards their officials compared with that of the rugby and hockey players towards theirs.

Combined with this was the incessant shouting and swearing at the referee, the opponents and each other, all within 60 yards of a children's playground.

Is there any connection between the fact that the two rugby codes and hockey have six bins and ten-yard penalties for abuse towards the referee or umpire? Surely the FA has

a duty to improve the standard of behaviour of players. Yours sincerely, GRAHAM RALPH, Old Gravesendians H.C., 29 Alfred Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Return of terraces

From Mr A. Wilson

Sir, Millions of football supporters have stood on terracing without loss of life. The events of Hillsborough unfolded in a freak set of circumstances — roadworks, police action and fencing. A similar set could occur in any large social gathering, such as a pop concert. That does not mean we should ban people from such gatherings.

I can understand why Mr Hicks finds terracing distasteful, but neither he, nor the other relatives of the Hillsborough victims, should be able to restrict the choice of football supporters. It is a disgraceful slur to link the call for terracing with the encouragement of hooliganism, whereas it is true that all

Appointment of the next Ryder Cup captain

From Mr P. Hughes

Sir, Why has an Irishman never been honoured with the captaincy of a Ryder Cup team? The Ryder Cup committee should be made aware there is a golden opportunity to appoint an Irish captain in 1999.

Christy O'Connor Jr is nearing the end of a long and successful career on the European Tour, he is respected by his peers and would be an ideal choice to lead the side, particularly in Boston. He is a man of strong will and determination, frequently demonstrated as he

emerged from the shadow of his illustrious uncle.

Those concerned must agree the time is right, at long last, to acknowledge the contribution Irish professional golfers have made to Ryder Cup history. The choice of Christy O'Connor Jr would put to rest thoughts that a clique exists within the halls of the PGA and The European Tour.

Yours faithfully, PETER HUGHES, 12 Fendland Avenue, Shepshed, Leicestershire.

Cricket statistics

From Mr C. Nutt

Sir, I hope that Mr Roberts was merely being provocative when he claimed that aggressive show Kent to have out-batted and out-bowled Glamorgan this year. (Sports Letters, October 6).

This is rather like saying Allan Border was a better batsman than Don Bradman.

because he scored more than 4,000 more Test runs, when he took three times the number of matches to do so.

The whole purpose of an average is to compare performance in the context of the opportunities provided. Bradman averaged nearly double Border per completed innings. Similarly Glamorgan suffered more than most from the weather — their aggregate runs and wickets reflect no more than this — whereas their average runs scored and conceded, show their superiority.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER NUTT, 8 Cambray Place, Cheltenham, Glos.

No Rugby Special

From Mrs P. Masson

Sir, As a family we too are saddened by the loss of *Rugby Special* on the BBC. My 13-year-old complained today that he hasn't seen even ten seconds of televised rugby this season, yet both he and his 11-year-old brother are keen and accomplished rugby players, who play for their schools and for their village side. Are we to see any rugby on a weekly basis on terrestrial channels this season?

Yours faithfully, PAMELA MASSON, Diddington House, Breaton, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Corinthian spirit alive

From Mr E. Grayson

Sir, The misconceived claim in your Times Diary (October 6) "The Corinthian spirit is dead" contrasts sharply with the following day's front-page report that "a code of conduct to stamp out indiscipline and gamesmanship imported from professional sport in matches between schools was unveiled by the heads of leading independent schools".

This is nothing more than the endorsement of the unwritten Corinthian concept of fair play in all team games, handed down and crystallised by the Corinthian Football Club from the C.B. Fry era and now identified as a wider benchmark for ethical conduct in all sporting activity.

Many of your readers may not know that many of the club's leading amateur internationals, playing alongside their paid contemporaries, were schoolmasters, including Fry himself and two of the club's historians, B.O. Corbett and Norman Creek. With their contemporaries from the professions of law and medi-

cine, they shared with their professional opponents standards of conduct and play which all schools could emulate.

Today too many paid gladiators and their employers from the jungle of commerce have no comparable standards. Hence the need for a schools code.

At Tolworth, Surrey, however, the legacies of that Corinthian tradition, the Corinthian-Casuals, can be found in the Isthmian League, which the Casuals helped found in 1905, operating ten teams from veterans to under-10s all dedicated to the aim enshrined in the club rules: "To promote fair play and sportsmanship, to generate good fellowship and sustain the amateur tradition."

So far from the Corinthian tradition being dead, it lives on in a corner of a Surrey football field that is more Corinthian than casual.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, EDWARD GRAYSON, Corinthian-Casuals Football Club, King George's Field, Hook Rise, South Tolworth, Surrey.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow:** The road to France — Italy and Ireland learn their World Cup fate

■ **Wednesday and Thursday:** The big names enter the Coca-Cola Cup. Manchester United at Ipswich, and the rest of the football action

■ **Saturday:** Frank Leboeuf (above), Chelsea's stylish defender, begins a new column

RUGBY LEAGUE

Mariners dying with style

By Christopher Irvine

IF NOTHING else, the long-winded and competitively top-sided world club championship has produced a curiosity for the sporting quiz books. Which rugby league club played in a final and was instantly scrapped?

The doomed Hunter Mariners can at least go out in style at Auckland on Friday. Brisbane Broncos are odds-on favourites but, then, so were Cronulla Sharks in the semi-finals on Saturday and Hunter staged a resounding comeback in a 22-18 victory to live for one more day.

Hunter's name on a trophy, which will never be repeated in such a tortuous form, or possibly played at all next year because of the World Cup in Australasia, might be apt. The club is staring at extinction after one season because of the need in Australia for a unified, 20-team competition, and the fact that there is room in Newcastle, their home city, for only one club.

The death sentence hanging over Hunter is inspiring them — that and the overshadowing triumph of Newcastle Knights in winning the Australian Rugby League competition. Anything their neighbours do, Hunter want to do better.

Graham Murray, their coach, appears to be headed for Great Britain as Dean Bell's replacement at Headingley. He may well bring with him Robbie McCormack, the tough, durable Hunter captain, who is eager to end his career in Britain. Leeds are in the market for a hooker after the departure of Wayne Collins and if Murray could persuade one or two more to follow him, youngsters of the quality of Brett Kimmorley at scrum half would be welcome.

Kimmorley, however, is bound to be in demand at home after his two-try display in a victory, which was Hunter's first away from home in Australasia.

RUGBY UNION: TWO LATE TRIES DENY DEPLETED SWANSEA A FAMOUS VICTORY IN HEINEKEN CUP

Wasps seize forward advantage to fight back

Wasps 29
Swansea 28

By Mark Souster

SWANSEA'S slim hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the Heineken Cup disappeared in cruel circumstances at Loftus Road yesterday as Wasps maintained their 100 per cent record in pool B. Despite having under-achieved in Europe this season, however, Swansea can be proud of a performance that came so close to providing an upset in a riveting match of skill, passion and movement.

Having arrived with a team derided by injury of Scott Gibbs, Arwel Thomas and Paul Arnold, to name but three, Swansea must have felt that a difficult task had become an impossible mission. Insult was added to their injury problems when Shaun Roiser scored Wasps's crucial third try after a blatant forward pass from Kenny Logan after 68 minutes.

That brought Wasps to within two points at 28-26 and the momentum that had been with the All Whites was lost. It was the defining moment and it was left to Gareth Rees, the Wasps full back, to convert his fourth successful penalty goal to secure their narrow victory.

When Swansea assess their European campaign, they will know that their early patchy form had finally caught up with them. It is also a sign of Wasps's attitude that, having already qualified for the last eight, they retrieved what had looked a hopeless situation with 20 minutes remaining.

Wasps took the lead with a penalty goal by Rees, then Swansea scored their first try. Booth broke down the short side from a scrum on the Wasps 22, then fed Paul Moriarty, who left Rees flat on the floor as he burst over.

Aled Williams missed the conversion, but then extended Swansea's lead with another

penalty after Lee Davies had been tackled late by Molloy. With Cronin dominating the early lineouts, though, Wasps were quick to retaliate.

A slick passing movement involving Dallaglio and Greenstock created space for Logan on the left. The Scotland international, who has scored 21 tries in 16 matches for Wasps, was stopped short but stood up in the tackle and off-loaded to King, who looped around to score in the corner.

Five minutes later, Logan instigated the next try. From a quick penalty, he raced 50 metres through the startled Swansea defence, changed angles and found Greenstock and King in support. The fly half showed considerable pace to touch down wide out.

Both sides added a penalty to give Wasps a 10-11 lead at half-time. Within ten minutes of the restart, however, Swansea had turned the match on its head with two swift tries.

Mark Taylor scored the first, after a huge pass from Booth following a tapped penalty, then Stuart Davies, who had a magnificent match, charged over from 20 metres after a break by Chris Wells, the hooker. That put Swansea two scores ahead and in sight of a famous win.

Then fate stepped in. Bertie Smith, the referee, left the field with a cut head that required seven stitches and Sean Buggy, his replacement, missed the all-important pass that consigned Swansea to defeat.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: King 2 (17m, 23), Rees (conversion), Rees (penalty) 3 (10, 24, 41), 14; Swansea: Tries: Moriarty (12), Taylor (44), S. Davies (59), Greenstock (72), Rees (penalty) 2 (14, 37); Wasps: G. Rees: S. Roiser, N. Greenstock, R. Henderson, K. Logan, M. Molloy, D. Murray (pen), S. Mitchell, E. Murray, G. Owen, D. Cooke, S. Shaw, I. Dallaglio, M. White (pen), J. Worsley, G. S. Shaw, S. Williams, M. Beck, R. Rees, M. Taylor, S. Davies, A. Williams, A. Booth, C. Loefer, C. Anthony, C. Wells, D. Arnold, G. Gibbs, P. Moriarty (pen), A. G. Thomas, S. Davies.

Referee: B. Smith (Ireland); rep: S. Buggy, 52.



King, the Wasps fly half, shrugs off the Swansea cover to score one of his two tries at Loftus Road yesterday

Munster's pride shines through

Munster 23
Harlequins 16

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN LIMERICK

THE cheers of biggest crowd at Thomond Park since 1978, the year when Munster became the first — and so far only — Irish team to defeat the All Blacks, rent the air here yesterday when Munster preserved their unbeaten home Heineken Cup record with a surprise defeat of Harlequins.

The result made no difference to Munster, whose competition, like Leinster and Ulster, is academic, but pride counts for a great deal in a city that is capital of its tag of the rugby capital of Ireland, its clubs having dominated the All Ireland League for the past six years.

This victory will go into the annals of Limerick, this year celebrating the 800th anniversary of its charter, awarded by King John of England in 1197. The team that saw off Harlequins will hardly worry about history, but they became part

of their city's sporting legend with a hard-fought and deserved win.

Harlequins raced to an 8-0 lead in seven minutes, courtesy of Darren O'Leary's uncanny try and a penalty goal from Thierry Lacroix, but, in a purple passage, Munster compiled 17 points in reply. Killian Keane, voted man of the match at fly half, started the fightback with a penalty goal, followed by a penalty goal by Rhys Ellison and Eddie Halvey.

Jamie Williams scored a fine try for Harlequins ten

minutes before half-time and, when Lacroix kicked his second penalty goal four minutes into the second period to reduce Munster's lead to one point, the outlook was not bright for the home side.

Munster spent long periods of the second half in defence, but they stood firm, even if there was many a heart-stopping moment for the home supporters. Harlequins' skipper, Keith Wood, was back on his native heath, but the welcome was warm, though not in the way that the British Isles hooker might

have liked. Even when Keane landed two more penalty goals, the last with time running out, Harlequins could still have forced a draw, but Munster kept their heads, defended manfully and held out for a win that must have gladdened the heart of the national coach, Brian Ashton, who was an interested observer.

Anyone brave enough to suggest in the pubs of Limerick last night that Irish rugby is dead would have got an emphatic argument to the contrary.

SCORERS: Munster: Tries: Ellison (17m), Halvey (24), Conboy (45), Keane (59), Keane (63), Keane (67), Keane (72), Keane (76), Keane (80), Keane (84), Keane (88), Keane (92), Keane (96), Keane (100). Harlequins: Tries: Wood (12), Wood (16), Wood (20), Wood (24), Wood (28), Wood (32), Wood (36), Wood (40), Wood (44), Wood (48), Wood (52), Wood (56), Wood (60), Wood (64), Wood (68), Wood (72), Wood (76), Wood (80), Wood (84), Wood (88), Wood (92), Wood (96), Wood (100).

Referee: N. Whitehouse (Wales).

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Referee: N. Whitehouse (Wales).

Leicester scrape home

LEICESTER, who boast one of the meaneast defences in the Heineken Cup, conceded five tries to Milan in Calvisano yesterday and came within eight minutes of their second away defeat in the pool matches. Only an injury-time try by Will Greenwood made the game end at 37-28 and ensured home advantage for the play-offs.

Joel Stranisky's goal-kicking made the difference, the

South African fly half scoring four conversions and three penalty goals. Francis Laygeley, his opposite number, could register only two successes from seven attempts.

Sebastian Viasi scored three of his six tries as the Leicester scrum-half scored a try and a penalty. The result leaves the Borders as the only team in the competition not to have won a match.

Watching the game on television, I was cheering for Swansea, but deep down I was thinking to myself 'Come on, give us a break.' Cenydd Thomas, the Pontypridd chief executive, said:

"Now the inevitable has happened and we will go to Brive to play a game of rugby." When the violence of that first encounter is set aside, the two sides produced some thrilling rugby before Brive won by a whisker.

But they take their place in the play-offs by a whisker. Depleted Swansea's heroic feats at Loftus Road almost carried them into the knockout stage at Pontypridd's expense.

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Saracens too strong for young Narbonne

Saracens 40
Narbonne 17

By Peter Bills

WHICHEVER side of the English Channel you are on, the European Conference remains an enigma to clubs and spectators alike. Northampton report average crowds of 4,000, compared to almost double for league matches. London Irish have attracted no more than 1,500 for their games, 2,500 below their league average.

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, barely 2,500 bothered to see a French club with a fine tradition visit Vicarage Road yesterday. Everyone did their best to make it an occasion worthy of the name. The man from Sud Radio in the south of France conveyed news back to the homes and vineyards of the Narbonne countryside with great excitement, but events in Castres the previous night had rendered Saracens' task impossible. In order to reach the quarter-finals as group winners, they had to win by 64 points. Not surprisingly, they never remotely looked like succeeding.

Saracens were always in charge. The combination of so much international experience in the London side and a Scottish referee who seemed to adhere to the principle of 'when in doubt, penalise the French' was heady stuff — and the dismissal of a frustrated Racine for head-butting Bracken was eminently predictable.

Narbonne had conceded two goals within 19 minutes and, although they stuck to their task — with the young Benazech impressive — were always outclassed.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Bracken (5m), Lynch (16), Lynch (45), Lynch (59), Lynch (63), Lynch (67), Lynch (72), Lynch (76), Lynch (80), Lynch (84), Lynch (88), Lynch (92), Lynch (96), Lynch (100). Narbonne: Tries: Benazech (12), Benazech (16), Benazech (20), Benazech (24), Benazech (28), Benazech (32), Benazech (36), Benazech (40), Benazech (44), Benazech (48), Benazech (52), Benazech (56), Benazech (60), Benazech (64), Benazech (68), Benazech (72), Benazech (76), Benazech (80), Benazech (84), Benazech (88), Benazech (92), Benazech (96), Benazech (100).

Referee: G. Mull (Scotland).

Return trip to Brive awaits Pontypridd

By David Hands

PONTYPRIDD will, in a sense, start the Heineken Cup all over again next month. They will try to put out of their minds the events that clouded their first meeting with Brive when they return to France on the weekend of November 1 and 2 for the play-off match against the holders, which will determine who plays in the competition's quarter-finals.

But they take their place in the play-offs by a whisker. Depleted Swansea's heroic feats at Loftus Road almost carried them into the knockout stage at Pontypridd's expense.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

BY GERALD DAVIES

CHANGING TIMES

Jeremy Guscott on one of the great moments in British sport — and being dropped from the England team

'I prayed it wouldn't be charged down. I struck it cleanly ...'

Typical, people said. Of all the dropped goals, in all the world, it had to be you. If you'd seen me spraying drop-kicks all over the pitch in training during the previous week — off the outside of my foot, off the inside of my foot, off the end of my toe — you would have bet as much money on me putting it over as you would on a one-legged man in a backside-kicking competition.

Did I know it would go over? No. No way. I had already sent one sizzling wide about a foot off the ground in the first international. So why with the score tied at 15-15 in the second international, three minutes of normal time left to play, and a historic series win for the Lions at stake, did it fall to me of all people to do the honours?

Because I was there. As Fran Cotton would have said: "Simple as that." Much as I might have felt like the wrong man in the right place, I was there, with the eyes of the 70,000 souls crammed into King's Park, Durban, drilling into my every movement.

The moment is frozen in time in my memory. Probably because freezing was what was most on my mind. As the ball drifted towards me through the arc of the floodlights everything seemed to happen in slow-motion. I dreaded its arrival. What if I missed? How had it happened?

I knew the answer to the second one: we had lifted the Springbok siege and had started to counter-attack



strongly in the last ten minutes of the match. Woody (Keith Wood) had hacked the ball down the left-hand touchline as the massive Lions contingent roared him on in the Durban night. Gregor Townsend had then driven for the line but was hauled down inside the 22. Scott Gibbs drove in to help clear the ball at the ruck. The target was in our sights.

I had stepped inside to the fly-half position and knew that we had no chance of an overlap on the outside with two of our backs already committed. When the ball came back to Matt Dawson he shaped to pass straight behind him, but in an instant he looked at me. There was panic in his eyes — and probably mine too — but he realised what was on and managed to swivel round and get the ball away to me. It had to be done. I knew where the posts were



Out of reach: Guscott drops the goal that won the second international, and the series, for the British Isles. Below, a moment later, with Scott Gibbs.

so I didn't have to look up. I concentrated purely on putting foot to ball and kept my head down. I prayed it wouldn't miss. I prayed it wouldn't be charged down. I struck it cleanly. The sense of elation I felt when I eventually looked up and saw the drop soar between the posts will stay with me for ever.

I immediately the Lions supporters went ballistic, and the boys on the field heaped congratulations on me, but there were five minutes remaining in which we had to protect that 18-15 margin. Five minutes before the 1997 Lions, the first professionals, wrote their name large in British rugby's hall of fame. When the final whistle went, Fran Cotton found me with a bear-hug which nearly broke my ribs. If he had, it wouldn't have made a jot of difference — I was on such

a high I was anaesthetised. I couldn't believe it. We had won against the odds against the most arrogant rugby nation on earth. We had made history. All I wanted to do was soak up the atmosphere, to drink in something that would stay with all of the 1997 Lions for the rest of our lives. I also wanted to share it with my family and friends. After the press conference was over — you couldn't have wiped the smile off my face even if I'd been forced to eat a lemon — I phoned my wife Jayne at home in Bath with my three daughters, Imogen, Holly and Saskia. Saskia had been born while I was away and I had only seen photos of her for the first time that morning.

There was a hug outside the dressing-room from my mum, Sue, who had come out for the internationals, and then I called my dad, Henry, back home in Bath. After I scored



the match-winning try for the 1997 Lions in the second international in Brisbane, he had been so pumped up that he walked down to my house, which was being refurbished, and smashed down a partition wall in about 30 seconds flat. He was so excited he said,



"This time I don't know whether to cry or be sick". After that I called my two lifelong mates from back home, Chalkie Wardell and Pete Blackett. I got Pete on the phone. There had been nine of them watching the match in his flat. Nathan Simms,

another mate, had popped round to Pete's when there were ten minutes to go and said, "Could you imagine if that bleeder drops a goal to win the game?" When they knew it was me on the end of the phone they went mad.

In retrospect, I'm pleased for the family and friends who had stuck by me through thick and thin, and for all my colleagues, players and management alike on tour and for the supporters who did us proud. Not only that, but pleased for the Lions, and for myself for having had the privilege to play for them.

There is nothing in rugby to touch the Lions. Lions tours are far more intense than playing for England — they provide a stage on which you can find a place in history. They certainly provided me with a world stage on which to play a leading role after an unpromising season.

Why was Carling given the vote?

WHEN Jack Rowell decided to pick Will Carling ahead of me for the five nations' championship last season, he could argue the pros and cons for either of us as players convincingly. In fact, on one occasion, he did. He said that over the previous two seasons a comparison between the two of us gave Will the edge because he was stronger than I was in contact situations. That's not something I'd disagree with because Will has always been good at taking the ball up, staying on his feet in contact and providing a target for his forwards, but it's all a matter of horses for courses, and if that's the game you decide to play, fine.

However, if you are talking about opening up and expanding your game, as Jack was, I think my record shows I can do that. Many pundits were of the opinion that Will and Phil de Glanville played similar games, and that you needed a different sort of player as a foil.

Whether these playing considerations weighed more heavily than "political" factors is another question. I don't suppose we will ever know whether Jack weighed up which axing would cause the greater furor. What I do know is that as a former Bath coach he was conscious of laying himself open to accusations of Bath favouritism.

Hooked

I WASN'T the only one who was a little baffled by Jack's decision to leave me on the bench, however — a point that seemed to be underlined when I was picked as a centre for the Lions squad. This meant a huge amount to me. As far as my England future is concerned, it will be very interesting to see what happens next. Will Carling may be out of the running but there is no shortage of mid-field contenders. Before he was concussed badly towards the end of the Lions tour, Will Greenwood was playing very well. There's Phil, and me. Who knows what comes next? In the end it all depends on the coach wants from his outside centre. Does he want someone who can finish off what's been created on the inside, or does he want what he had before? Put it this way, I'm not holding my breath.

Frustrations of life on the bench

For me the 1996-97 season began with a dip in fortunes, but ended on that unbelievable high in Durban. In between it was, in an England context, frustrating because I spent most of the time on the bench.

During the five nations' I managed the princely total of 43 minutes on the field. Against Ireland, although a lot was made of the three minutes Austin Healey and I were on, the hard work had already been done. I took the euphoria with a pinch of salt. The Wales game was different. When I saw that Jon Sleightholme was in trouble, my heart sank. Wing was the last place I wanted to go on, because you feel so exposed. I'd played there for Bath eight years earlier and hated it — I've done nothing worse in rugby. So I went over and told him he couldn't come off and tried to get him up, but, when he told me he couldn't see out of his left eye, I knew the game was up — and I was on.

Once on the pitch, I didn't think too much about it. Whatever decisions I made in defence I made quickly and shock by them, and when I got the ball I decided I was simply going to run into space. As it worked out things went extremely well, but give me centre any day. It was a charmed 40 minutes, even if I was like a scared cat running purely on instinct.

However, while all's well that ends well, the early signs last season were not good. During the summer a provisional England squad had been announced with a number of the old lads — myself, Dean Richards, Rory Underwood, Brian Moore, Will Carling, Jon Callard, Graham Dawe — all omitted. It amused me when I saw the form come through from the England management saying that we had been omitted on the grounds that they knew what we could do. How that made us any different from any of the others in the squad with ten or 15 caps — presumably they also knew what they could do — is beyond me.

However, that sort of approach is something you come to expect from the RFU, so, at the time I did not see it as a



A moment of Guscott's inspiration against Wales in March

great setback and nor did it make me think, Oh crumbs. I'm determined to play really well this season just to prove people wrong. It was just something I accepted.

Obviously one of the main factors in my being relegated to the bench by England was the appointment of my Bath colleague and centre partner, Phil de Glanville, as captain of England. I used to say to him, "The only way you're going to get the England job is if you are captain, because there's no other way you're going to get in", and Phil used to smile in his knowing sort of way. Deep down Phil is very, very competitive and a strong-minded individual. In many ways the banter coming out was good because it dissolved some of the tension.

The day before it was announced officially, he was on a golf course with "Sleights" and Jon Callard but I already knew because Phil had phoned me up and said that Jack Rowell, the England coach who had made his name in the glory days at Bath, had made him captain. I congratulated him there and then, but I realised immediately that it was now a straight race between Will Carling and myself

training with Mike Catt, Callard, Sleights and Phil. Phil, who has an input in selection but no vote, had an inkling that I was out, because Jack had bounced it off him. I admitted to them that I'd had the phone call from Jack. Phil apart, the boys couldn't believe it. Phil, who was in a no-win situation, said: "So that's the way he's gone — never mind." What else could he say?

When we got to England training at Bisham Abbey Will and I looked at each other and shrugged, as if to say, "So that's the way it is". I wasn't the only disappointed man at England training that day. Kyran Bracken had been ousted in favour of Andy Gomarsall — but my disappointment was different because I was an experienced player being dropped by his country for the first time. I can't measure it against the other setbacks I've had in life because, quite simply, I don't tend to dwell on them. But I do remember being surrounded by the massed ranks of the rugby media and vowing to myself, Terminator-style, "I'll be back".

The most difficult question to answer was the one they all asked: "Has Jack told you why he left you out?" As I mentioned, I hadn't asked him when he made the dreaded phone call. Subsequently, throughout the autumn games I was hoping that the moment would come when I could say to him, "Come on, give me the real reason why you left me out". That moment never arose, and to this day I don't know all the whys and wherefores.

Phil, Jack and I have a history — although I wasn't really involved during the 1995 World Cup Phil gave Jack a really hard time when there were suggestions that I was off form and that he should be given his chance. I can understand his frustration because he had been on the bench for two seasons. Now I've been on it for one, and when I give him a hard time he tells me: "You just keep that bench warm."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I have mentioned before that "side-suit first" is a good rule of thumb when the trump position is at all fragile. This example is from the second match of this year's BBL Premier League.

Dealer East	East-West game	IMPs
	<p>♠ K 8 4</p> <p>♥ 10 8 5 2</p> <p>♦ A 7</p> <p>♣ Q 7 5 3</p>	
	<p>♠ A 10 9 6 5 2</p> <p>♥ Q 10 9</p> <p>♦ 8 6 4</p> <p>♣ A</p>	
	<p>♠ A 3</p> <p>♥ A 6 4 3</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣ A 10 8 5 2</p>	
	<p>♠ 10 8 5 2</p> <p>♥ A 10 9 6 5 2</p> <p>♦ Q 10 9</p> <p>♣ 8 6 4</p>	
	<p>♠ A 3</p> <p>♥ A 6 4 3</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣ A 10 8 5 2</p>	

Contract: Three Hearts by South. Lead: King of diamonds

I made a sensible bid and a poor one in this auction. I think it is correct to bid Two Clubs over One Diamond — if we have a heart fit we will win it on the next round; to bid hearts and then support clubs if my partner does not have hearts gives a distorted picture of my hand.

Over Three Diamonds, though, I should have bid Four Hearts — Three Hearts is consistent with a hand that does not have the king of spades.

In Three Hearts Senior won the first diamond and played ace and another club. With the hearts behaving he now made ten tricks. But why did he play on clubs before ducking a heart (incidentally the best technique in the heart suit is to duck one round, rather than play ace and another)?

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

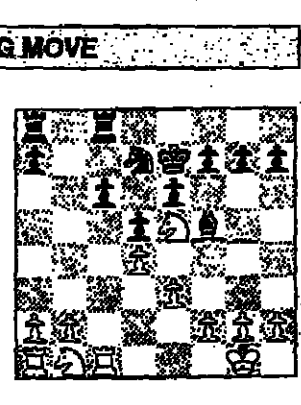
Tilburg line-up

The line-up at the Tilburg tournament includes many of the world's top players, Viswanathan Anand and Anatoly Karpov being the main exceptions. Amongst the field, apart from the world's top two ranked players, Kasparov and Kramnik, were Britain's Michael Adams, Judit Polgar, Alexei Shirov, Joel Lautier and the player who used to be the world's youngest grandmaster, Peter Leko. The first prize is approximately £8,000. In today's games from Tilburg, opposite casting leads, in both cases, to a violent attack against the enemy king.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Leko van Wely
 Tilburg, September 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
 2 Nf3 d5
 3 d4 cxd4
 4 Nxd4 Nf6
 5 Nc3 a6
 6 Bg2 b5
 7 Nf3 Bb7
 8 g4 h6
 9 f4 exd4
 10 Bxd4 Nf6
 11 h5 Be6
 12 Qd2 d5
 13 Qd3 cxd4
 14 Qc3 Qc2
 15 Nxe4 Q-O
 16 Qxe4 Q-O
 17 Kb1 f5
 18 Qe3 Nb4
 19 Bb3 g4
 20 Bc4 Bf5
 21 Nd4 Bxe4
 22 Qxe4 Qd7
 23 B3 Rf6
 24 Ne6 Rf6
 25 Ne7 Nxe2



WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Benjamin — Christiansen, US Championship 1997. In this endgame position, Black has deliberately left his pawn on c6 available for capture. He has calculated 1 Rxc6 Nxc6 2 Rxc6 3 dxc6 Rd6 and 1 Nxc6 Kd6 and the white knight is pinned on the c-file. What has he overlooked?

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- SOGDIAN**
 a. A monophysite heretic
 b. From Samarkand
 c. A calcium crystallite
- WAPPIE**
 a. A card game
 b. A bamboo raft
 c. A straw mattress
- ZIGEUNER**
 a. An immigrant worker
 b. An Alpine fiddle
 c. A gypsy
- SEHNSUCHT**
 a. An Austrian strawberry meringue
 b. Without meaning
 c. Wisful longing

Answers on page 44

Mark Herbert meets the young angler aiming to land a medal for England

Hooked on a feeling that could produce gold

Think of anglers on a beach and images spring to mind: solitary types, laden under rods and racks, wearing anoraks and bibble-hats, men. Emma Davies wears the gear and carries the tackle, but one glance tells you she does not fit the stereotype.

She is 18. Her looks and youth draw comment, but her achievements are more remarkable. This week, when the world shore fishing championships come to Kent, perhaps England's strongest hope of winning an individual medal in the women's tournament rests upon her slim shoulders.

Angling may be a pastime when it concerns kids dabbling in rockpools with a bent pin and cork, but match fishing is a fiercely competitive sport. It is the cutting edge, where tackle and techniques are endlessly refined, secrets jealously guarded and where there is no substitute for experience and wilecraft. Not a place, then, for a girl, particularly in an arena that can be stiflingly chauvinistic.

In fact, Davies loves it. This will be her second world championship: last summer, in Ireland, she became England's youngest international when, at 17, she trod the strands of Wicklow, helping the women's team to win the silver medal. She came eighth overall. The mer won the team championship and Chris Clarke, who has surrendered his title to help organise this year's event, the individual gold.

Asked about her individual chances, Davies is guarded. Match fishing is a lottery, she explains: luck of the draw determines whether you get a peg teeming with fish, or a desert. "You think of the team first and last. Individual medals are just a bonus."

She carries a trump card, however. The championships are being held around Dover and Deal, her home town. Davies first became hooked, as it were, at the age of 11, while tagging along with her father Mick, a match angler of some standing locally, at competitions on these beaches.

Since her England place was confirmed last year, she has spent much of her spare time practising. Such an excuse to hang up a Gone



Catch of the day: Davies hauls a wrasse out of the rough ground during a practice session on Samphire Hoe, near Dover. Photograph: Chris Eades

Fishin' sign sounds like an idler's dream, but for her it has been the opposite. In June, she passed A levels, enabling her to start a degree course in industrial relations at the University of Kent once the championships finish and then took a part-time job to pay her way.

We met at Samphire Hoe, the new concrete promenade under the cliffs of Dover created from spoil from the Channel Tunnel. She had given up the job a week before and begun serious training, chasing the tide day and night to

glean tips and insight into every section of each championship venue. She took a wrasse with her first cast and followed it with a steady stream of fish.

Did the non-stop grind get her down? "I've been fishing every day for the past month," she said. "Time is flashing by and there are so many variables — weather, tides, conditions — that I get frustrated if I can't practise."

"It was the same in Ireland; you run on adrenalin all week. I was under pressure because of my age, but the team spirit was very good

and they looked after me. When we won the silver [England's first women's world team medal], it was such an emotional moment. I'd love to win this time. It would make everything worthwhile."

Standing in the way are France, the champions. "They out-cast us in Ireland," she said. "That made the difference." Casting, the act of propelling the bait and sinker out to sea, has become a sport within a sport, one in which the top men can belt a 60z lead weight more than 300 yards. The farther you cast, the more fish you reach, in

theory. Mick and Steve Allmark, a Dover local who is in the England men's team, have been helping to improve her technique.

She pays tribute to her father, standing quietly in the background, who is her coach, mentor and paymaster. Her trip to Ireland last year cost him £1,000. Even on home ground, she has to pay £200 towards accommodation, entrance fees and bait. The world championships may be coming home, but they have received minimal backing. The England teams have a kit sponsor, but the £1,000-worth of

rods, reels and accessories that Davies uses have been paid for from family coffers.

It is an ironic situation. She has reached the top in Britain's most popular sport, but because it has no organised voice, no household names, a dubious public profile and little financial clout, she is small fry on the grand sporting scale here. In the United States, where anglers, men and women, can make a good living from tackle endorsements, videos, magazine columns and big-money matches, she would be an icon.

DETAILS

Championship venues
MEN: Tomorrow: Samphire Hoe, nr Dover, 0800-1400hrs; 15: Prince's Parade, Seabrook, 2000-2100; 16: Prince's Parade and Hymn, 2100-2200; 17: Sandwich Sandown and Deal beaches, 2130-2230
WOMEN: Tomorrow: Deal and Sandown beaches, 1900-2300 Oct 15: Samphire Hoe, 1100-1500; 16: Prince's Parade, Seabrook and Hymn, 2100-2200; 17: Sandwich, Sandown and Deal beaches, 2130-2230

England teams
MEN: Alan Yates (Folkestone), Peter Owen (Folkestone), Steve Allmark (Dover), Bernard Wengert (Seabrook), Ian Gids (Portsmouth), Trevor Pacey (Eastbourne)
WOMEN: Christine Carrington (Eastbourne), Rose Browning (Brighton), Paula Ferry (Walsingham), Emma Davies (Deal), Jo Hyatt (Plymouth) Reserves: Carol Green (Brighton)

There have been other struggles, too. "When I started, dad always fished next to me to make sure I was OK," she said, "but I began winning matches and people accused us of cheating, saying that he was helping me. Now I'm older, we don't fish competitions together. I'm still winning, so that's shut them up and now dad only gets stuck when I beat him."

Yes, she admitted, it's an horrendously sexist sport. Men resent being beaten by a woman. No, it doesn't spoil her enjoyment. Yes, the language can be bad. No, it doesn't offend her. She's used to it. Yes, people say she'll grow out of fishing, go out, meet boys...

Has she?
"I have a good social life. I go down the pub or see friends when I want to," she says. Boyfriends? "I'm not seeing anyone at the moment. My fishing comes first. Not everybody understands that."

The tide has dropped and the fish have stopped biting. She stares out to sea, blue-grey eyes sweeping over blue-grey Channel waters. "This is what I love, the moments of peace and quiet after you've been concentrating so hard."

Her father drifts over, suggesting that it's time to go home. Dinner first, then a night session, fishing the tide up at Walmer Castle. A little wearily, she starts bundling up her rods and tackle, but the spring is back in her step as she marches down the prom. England expects.

Surrey bolster crusade to tap inner-city talent

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SURREY have had one of the most fruitful youth coaching systems in county cricket over recent years. There were nine graduates from the Nescafé scheme in the Surrey squad this year, including the Hilloake brothers and Mark Butcher, all of whom were selected by England.

Yet the drive to popularise the sport in inner cities remains unceasing. The cricket season may have only just finished, but you would not have believed this at Granton Primary School, in Lambeth, last week, where, in autumnal sunshine, the first of six sessions was being held amid rare zest and interest.

Surrey have formally taken over responsibility for coaching in the South London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth and Croydon, a total of 320 primary, secondary and special needs schools. From this term, Surrey are directly helping to fund the development of the game in these schools.

Tony Moody, whose coaching experience stretches from Zimbabwe to South London, looks on the game as a unifying force. "I want youngsters to feel the joy that the game can bring, to understand cricket so that even if some of them don't play it in future, they still have an inkling of what the game is about. It is a transfer of interest from the mental to the spiritual," he said.

It is not easy introducing cricket to primary school children, although Granton,

unlike many similar inner-city schools, at least possesses a grass area on site for sport. Mini-activities are constructed, rather than a formal game, with the emphasis on as much activity as possible. The object is not to let any of the children get bored. At Granton school, they certainly did not.

Amid whoops of joy, balls were bowled and caught and the youngsters queued up for

SPORT
IN SCHOOLS

their turn. Emma Nicholls, one of the teachers, said: "The children do see it as a treat having someone from outside the school. They enjoy the status of it."

Garth Townsend, the development officer for London with the Surrey Cricket Board, said: "The children's eyes light up when a coach walks into a school. They are ready to listen."

After the introductory six sessions by the visiting coach, the teacher is encouraged to continue the instruction, with the emphasis on the basic skills of catching and throwing. "What can kill the initia-

tive is if everything is packed away after the visiting coach finishes his course," Townsend said.

Alex Townsend, 9, clearly revelled in the experience. "I am only OK at batting. I am better at bowling, but I have to bow it so that the person batting is able to hit the ball, otherwise it is not much fun."

The scheme in inner London allows the identification of outstanding youngsters, who are then encouraged to attend the indoor cricket school once a fortnight at the Oval, as part of the Nescafé coaching scheme.

From September next year, in Southwark, there will be a scholarship system for outstanding youngsters from the feeder primary schools to attend Kingsdale Secondary School. Youngsters will be guaranteed a place and will also receive coaching at the Oval.

Townsend said: "The greatest difficulty within London is to get the progression between the ages of 12 and 18. Lambeth does not have a proper cricket ground, apart from the Oval, and so most of the teams are wandering ones. It is not always easy to tell little Johnny — or little Jane — where they can play."

To find the successors of the Hilloakes and Butchers is not the only task for Surrey and this inner-city initiative. What is even more important is to encourage youngsters to acquire a feel for the sport, to understand the rapture that it can create.

SPEEDWAY

Hancock in double celebration

BY TONY HOARE

GREG HANCOCK became only the fifth rider to take the world championship and British League riders' championship titles in the same season, at Odsal Stadium in Bradford on Saturday.

The league riders' championship matches the top rider from each of the ten Elite League clubs, plus six seeded riders. Hancock, from Coventry, qualified for the final in second place, behind Tony Rickardsson, but he was quickest from the start line in the decider and led all the way from the first turn.

In achieving the double, Hancock emulated Erik Gundersen, his former Cradley Heath team-mate, who achieved the feat 12 years ago. Barry Briggs, Ole Olsen and Hans Nielsen are the others to win the double since the riders' competition was launched in 1965.

Hancock, 27, said: "I thought, 'Wow, I've made the history books.' I'm pleased with that, because this is a prestigious event; it's a title that is very hard to get a hold of. Billy Hamill has led the averages all season and hasn't won."

Hamill, second in the world championship, behind his Team Exide partner, was leading the semi-final and seemed on course for a place in the decider when his engine blew up. "My bikes have been reliable and that was my first blow-up of the season," Hamill said. He added that the Italian-made GM engine was beyond repair. "It's always disappointing to lose, but it is worse when it's something like that."

Yet Hamill was fortunate to qualify for the semi-final at all after being excluded from his second ride for touching the starting tape as he tried to anticipate the start. He also ran last in his third outing, but three brilliant wins in his other rides saw him through.

Rickardsson, the Swedish rider who signed for Ipswich midway through the season and was seeded to the event after an impressive run of form, finished second. Chris Louis fought his way past Simon Wigg, of King's Lynn, who was a surprise qualifier for the final, to take third place.

Results, page 40

Junior tour expands further

THE DEVELOPMENT of the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT) into one of the country's leading competitions for young golfers is to take another step forward in 1998. For the first time, a Scottish regional tour is to be played, another first is the inauguration of a girls' tour and the itineraries, just announced, reveal that even more of the United Kingdom's best courses are to be visited by players in the five circuits within the overall tour.

It has become almost commonplace for the JGT, which

Mel Webb explains why young golfers will be playing on three Open courses

visiting next year," Colin Springate, the tournament director, said. "It is a testament to the behaviour of the boys who have played on the tours to date that these clubs are happy to welcome us. Word has clearly got around that the JGT is something that clubs should be happy to be associated with."

David Leadbetter, the patron of the Tour, has been anxious for some time that a circuit should be set up for girls and, after two successful pilot tournaments this year, Springate has now set up a four-tournament circuit for them. The girls' tour will consist of 42 players, who will be asked to play in three out of the four tournaments, and they will have a separate competition in the Tournament of Champions event to be held at Charr Hills, in Kent, in November next year.

Springate has also responded to a clear demand for a tour from young Scottish players. Unlike the boys' tours in England, which have 72 players in each division, the Scottish division will offer places to 60 players and, if the English model is an indicator, it will be healthy over-subscribed.

Springate, who ran the JGT at his own expense until Daihatsu became involved for the first time this year, is convinced that the standards of behaviour that have been set by players in the JGT is a prime reason for clubs' willingness to stage tournaments. Players are not allowed to smoke during JGT events, they are not allowed to drink alcohol or play on gaming machines and the only earnings that will be seen will be worn by the girls. "Junior golfers haven't always had the

that they need to have a handicap of 20 or under.

Anybody interested in playing on any of the English tours should write to the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour at PO Box 3227, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8YN, while Scottish applicants should apply to the tour at PO Box 14468, Glenrothes, Scotland KY6 3YE. All applicants should enclose a first-class stamped addressed A4 envelope. Information and entry packages will be sent out from November 1.

Scores, page 40

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Kevin Keegan

TIMES readers are invited to a Times/Dillons forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United. Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football correspondent of *The Times*. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's *My Autobiography* (Little Brown £16.99) and will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Stoney Gate, London SW1 at 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me tickets at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Forum with Kevin Keegan at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

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Moody wants inner-city children to share his great joy in a unifying game

Sally Jones rediscovers the joys of ice skating in company with her six-year-old son, Roly

'Look, mum, I can twizzle!'

ASHLEY COOMBS

Three decades after my last experience of skating with a group of like-minded tomboys, resplendent in rusty blades, striking out over ice a foot thick on a disused gravel pit, I decided it was time to try again. First time around, the sheer discomfort of the piercing Siberian winds and frequent falls obliterated most of the joy of learning to stand up and achieving the first short foray without a tumble.

My few outings on a proper rink, amid the 60s splendour of the "Silver Blades" in Birmingham, were marred by the taunts of the gangs of youths who skimmed around in predatory fashions, hands behind their backs. I longed to skate like them, nearly as much as I ached to do loud wolf-whistles. Sadly, I never mastered either accomplishment but when my six-year-old son, Roly, sat engrossed by the European figure-skating championships and demanded to learn to skate, "twizzling round and round like that man", the old yearning returned. I booked a set of group lessons at Solihull Ice Rink, one of Britain's 30 major rinks and home of the Solihull Barons ice hockey side.

Arriving early we watched, fascinated, as half a dozen instructors put small groups of skaters through their paces: from rangy teenagers essaying elegant-looking leaps to tiny, knobby-kneed five-year-olds, skimming round backwards and crossing their feet on the corners. A look of murderous envy crossed Roly's face when the nearest child launched herself into an impressive-looking spin, folding her arms across her chest as she rotated faster and faster on the spot. "She's twizzling Mummy, I want to twizzle too!"

The hire skates proved something of a disappointment; chunky, navy-blue boots with knotted red laces, ideal for deterring would-be thieves but a world away from the fur-lined coffee-coloured creations which Roly had hoped for.

"His first time, is it?" asked the motherly lady in a skate hire, producing several pairs of skates until she found one with navy ground edges for maximum control and a concave profile along the underside of the blades.

"Stops you slipping and helps you to do nice precise figures," she explained as she showed us how to lace the boots tightly over the ankle for maximum support but more loosely over the shins. I thanked her,

SPORT FOR ALL

reflecting that for today, figures would probably take second place to getting round the rink in one piece.

To my surprise Roly positively dragged me onto the ice at the start of our session with Don Baker, a slight gentle man who specialises in coaxing even the most nervous beginners through the basics required for Grade One of the 10 basic

the rink. "Once a competitive element was introduced, the tears evaporated and Roly bravely attempted all the drills: touching his toes as he skimmed along two-footed, trying to lift one foot for as long as possible, while gliding on the other and even "doing fishes", pressing out on the ankles to send the skates curving outwards, and then back in again. "It's a good warm-up practice," explained Don, "because it makes everyone use their ankles and knees to get the momentum going."

Next came the T-stop. "Glide on one foot," Don commanded, "hands out in front of you as though you were riding a bike, then gently drag the other blade turned out at right angles, across the ice behind you and bring it up to the heel of your front foot so that you come to a controlled halt." I went flying at my first attempt, digging in too hard and catching an edge, while Roly performed an involuntary spin which seemed to him more fun than stopping in a straight line. "I'm twizzling Mummy!"

On our second session though, the stop came more naturally and we started learning to skate backwards, while staring enviously at the self-assured youngsters in the Grade 3 group. Further down the rink, an instructor was scrutinising the crisply carved outline of a "three" traced as her pupil performed a one-foot turn from the front to back.

"The idea of these basic grades is to get you to flow on skates," Don explained, "and to be aware of where your weight is and which edge you're on. After the first six grades, we suggest private lessons to take you through to the more advanced levels, preliminary, bronze, inter-silver, silver and up to gold."

"Too old? Rubbish. One lady here took up skating when she was nearly 40 and reached her inter-silver which was a real achievement. She's now 72 and still skates regularly."

Much encouraged, I enlisted the help of a friendly intermediate skater and after a string of falls managed a slightly wobbly one-footed turn.

When after four sessions, Roly finally mastered the T-stop and achieved his Grade One certificate, he was as delighted as Torvill and Dean must have been with an Olympic gold and leapt two-footed into the air, twizzling his arms like a dervish.

"Yes! Now I've passed my test, I'm going to start twizzling!"



Sally Jones and her son Roly get their boots fitted

proficiency awards set by the National Ice Skating Association.

Our fellow beginners included Annie, a poised looking lady with her six-year-old son Samuel in tow, a tough looking nine-year-old boy and a tiny five-year-old who had spent the first two weeks of her course clinging to the rail.

After Roly insisted on holding my hand for the first few minutes, Don soon showed him how to glide forward, pushing off from the back foot, toes turned out, leaning slightly forward. The first fall produced a brief crisis of tears but Don defused the situation by telling the whole class to sit on the ice and practise getting up again.

"Kneel up and stand from there, then skate fast as possible to the other side of



COMPETITION

Competitive figure skating is split into men's, women's and pairs skating, while other disciplines include ice dance, popularised by Torvill and Dean, recreational skating, team precision skating and speed skating. Figure skating involves two programmes to music. In the short one eight prescribed elements must be skated; this accounts for a third of the overall marks. Next comes the free programme, a choreographed four minute routine incorporating as many elements as possible: a series of jumps and spins linked together with different step sequences, interpreting the music throughout. This provides the other two thirds of the marks which are awarded for technical merit and presentation.



Torvill and Dean

Where to begin and what you need



Roly gets used to staying upright while Mum keeps up

BRITAIN boasts eight Olympic sized ice rinks (60m by 30m), plus 21 slightly smaller rinks, such as Solihull, which are suitable for national novice championships. There are another 40 smaller rinks of different sizes.

An estimated 14 million people take to the ice at least once a year, and several million skate regularly, many in beginners' classes. Group sessions are recommended for newcomers as these work out much cheaper than individual lessons and are an equally effective way of learning the basics. All formal teaching at reputable rinks is done by qualified members of the British Ice Teachers Association.

EQUIPMENT: most beginners hire boots until they are certain they intend to skate regularly. They then choose appropriate leather boots and blades: ice dance boots for example are cut lower at the back to allow more freedom for particular moves while a reinforced blade is used for figure skating because of the extra stresses from the jumps and throws. Skaters should always be on one or other edge rather than skating "flat". The

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 42

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- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid.
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 42).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 42 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

PORTFOLIO RULES 1 *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio is free. Purchases of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* is not a condition of taking part. 2 *Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times* Equity Prices page. *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted as the Top 200 companies in *The Sunday Times* Stock Exchange price page. Readers' calculations should be based on whole numbers only. Where a fraction appears the figure should be rounded down to make a whole number e.g. +4½ equals +4. The companies comprising the list will change from day to day. This list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers. 3 *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (ie, the largest increase or

lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of the 44 shares which on any one day comprises *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Sunday in *The Sunday Times*. 5 *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Cards are freely available at *Times* Newspapers Ltd offices or you can call the card request line on 0171-481 3855 during normal office hours. 6 If the overall prize movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend the prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding those combinations of shares. If the prize is unclaimed it will be added to the following day's prize for the daily game or the next week's prize for the accumulator. There is a limited prize pool and in the event of there being more winners their prizes available in the prize pool, *Times* Newspapers Ltd reserve the right to

distribute the available prize by a random draw. 7 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Portfolio card that is defaced, tampered with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void. 8 *Employees of News International Plc* and its subsidiaries and of *European Group Limited* (publishers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Portfolio. 9 All participants will be subject to these rules. All instructions on how to play and how to claim whether published in *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* or on Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these rules. The Editor reserves the right to amend the Rules. Any amendments will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 10 In any dispute the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 11 If for any reason *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* prices page is not published in the normal way Portfolio will be suspended for the day. 12 Persons under the age of 18 are ineligible to play. 13 Winners MUST agree to publication of their names and/or photograph in *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times*.

THE TIMES

Rent Act protection for sub-tenants in mixed tenancies

Wellcome Trust Ltd v Hamad Ebied and Another v Hopkins and Another
Commissioners for England v Baines
 Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment July 30]

Property governed by a tenancy which was subject to Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, covering security of tenure for business tenancies, could, depending on the circumstances, be treated as a dwelling house for the purposes of the Rent Act 1977, and thus be treated as premises which qualified for protection under section 13(3) of the Rent Act 1977.

Accordingly, sub-tenants of lawfully sub-tenanted residential premises in mixed residential and business, in which the superior letting came to an end, continued to enjoy protection under the 1977 Act, and their tenancies were binding on the freeholders.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeals of:

(1) *Andel Hamad* against the order of Judge Wakefield in *West London County Court* on April 24, 1997, that, inter alia, he should give the plaintiff, *Wellcome Trust Ltd*, possession of Flat 3, 1 Egerton Mansions, 209 Brompton Road, Chelsea.

(2) *Edward William Hopkins* against the order of Judge Wakefield in *West London County Court* on February 27, 1997, that, inter alia, he should give the plaintiffs, *Deborah Anne Ebied* and *Anne Mary Standish*, possession of residential premises he occupied at 68 Elgin Crescent, North Hill.

(3) *Miss Helen Baines* against the order of Judge Cowell in *West London County Court* on November 11, 1996, that, inter alia, she held Flat 2, 271 Kings Road, Chelsea, on an assured weekly periodic tenancy and a notice of increase of rent served on her in January 1995 was valid and effective.

Mr Paul Morgan, QC and Mr Stephen Corrie for Hamad; Mr Paul Morgan, QC and Mr Andrew Short for Hopkins; Mr David Watkinson for Baines; Mr Timothy C. Dutton for *Wellcome Trust Ltd*; Mr David Branger for Ebied and Standish; Mr Patrick Rulle for the *Commissioners*.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT, giving the judgment of the court,

said that the resolution of each of the appeals depended on the true construction of section 13(3) of the 1977 Act.

The county court judges were bound by *Pittalis v Grant* [1989] QB 608 where the Court of Appeal held that the sub-tenancy of residential premises under a lease of business premises came within Part II of the 1954 Act, and so the residential premises could be treated as a dwelling house for the purposes of the 1977 Act since they could not constitute premises within the meaning of section 13(3).

The court's conclusion was reached in the light of the majority decision of the House of Lords in *Mansell v Ollins* [1975] AC 373, 389 where Lord Wilberforce held that the word "premises" in a statutory provision in the same terms, so far as material, as section 13(3), included any premises which as a matter of fact, and applying accepted principles, were held to be a dwelling house for the purposes of the Act. The minority held that the word had a narrower meaning, namely, the subject matter of the particular letting referred to.

Mr Morgan's essential argument was that *Pittalis* was wrongly decided because no consideration appeared to have been given to the authorities establishing Lord Wilberforce's accepted principles, or to the effect of the statutory wording in the latter part of section 13(3) of the 1977 Act, the first part of which the court applied in *Pittalis*.

Some consideration was necessary on the effect of the Rent Acts on mixed tenancies from a historical perspective to identify the accepted principles, and his Lordship considered the impact of the different relevant statutory provisions, and especially *Epsom Grand Stand Association Ltd v Clarke* [1919] 3 TLR 525; *WV 170*; *Hicks v Snooks* [1928] 2 LGR 175; *Victory v Martin* [1944] KB 679; *Wolfe v Hogan* [1949] 2 KB 195; *Fogersell v Turnidge* [1952] 2 QB 29; and *Whiteley v Wilson* [1953] 1 QB 77; see also *Cherry Investments Ltd v Saldanha* [1978] 1 WLR 1327, 1331-1332.

His Lordship said that Lord Wilberforce in *Mansell v Ollins* had concentrated attention on the type of premises Parliament would have had in mind as constituting dwelling houses when it enacted section 41 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the origin of the statutory provision, section

18(5) of the Rent Act 1968, he was considering.

Each of the superior lettings with which the present court was concerned constituted a tenancy to which Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 applied.

Approaching the construction of section 13(3) a priori, it appeared to contemplate that where there was a flat over a shop, and the flat was lawfully sublet for residential use so as to afford the sub-tenant protection under the Act as against the tenant, the sub-tenant should continue to enjoy the same protection against the head landlord when the superior letting came to an end.

In view of the words of qualification in section 24(3) of the 1977 Act, the fact that a tenancy was subject to the 1954 Act did not prevent any other provision of the 1977 Act from applying to a sub-tenancy of part of the tenancy. It had been suggested those words were arguably aimed at ensuring the continuing application of section 13(3). *The Conqueror and Property Lawyers* (1990) 204, 205.

The words were obviously capable of applying where part of business premises was sublet. There was nothing in *Pittalis* to show the court considered those words or their effect. Moreover, in reaching its conclusion, the court appeared to have overlooked all of the authorities in which Lord Wilberforce's accepted principles were contained.

Counsel for all parties before the court agreed those authorities were the source of the accepted principles. Unless a decision in *Pittalis* could be sustained by other means, it had to have been reached per incuriam and should not be followed.

The court had to test the question whether property demised by a superior tenancy constituted "premises" by asking whether it was a dwelling house within the extended meaning in the *Epsom Grand Stand* case and following cases. Before 1954 the most recent authority about the meaning of dwelling house was *Whiteley v Wilson* [1953] 1 QB 77; see also *Cherry Investments Ltd v Saldanha* [1978] 1 WLR 1327, 1331-1332.

Applying that test it was plain that the premises in each of the three appeals constituted a dwelling house.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Alan Edwards & Co, Kensington; Ashby Wilson, Chelsea; Cameron McKenna; Ronald Flower & Co, Maiden Vale; Radcliffe Crossman Block.

Where an amount was due under an agreement subject to an arbitration clause and the amount was either disputed or simply not paid, there was a dispute as to the proper claim even where no answer to the claim existed in law or in fact. That dispute had to go to arbitration and any proceedings brought in respect of it were bound to be stayed under section 9(4) of the 1996 Act.

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The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the case of Mrs Khatoon Khan, who, from the order of Mr Justice Sedley (7th November 12, 1996) who had allowed Mrs Khan's application for judicial review of the refusal by the Immigration Appeal Tribunal dated August 7, 1995 of leave to appeal from the dismissal by a special adjudicator of her application for asylum on the ground that she was not a refugee.

The court dismissed an appeal by Mrs Shahana Saif Islam and her sons, Jahangir, Idem and Orangzeb Islam, against the dismissal by the IAT of October 2, 1996 of their appeal against an adjudicator's decision that they were not refugees.

His Lordship referred to the decisions of the High Court of Australia in *A v Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs* [1992] 175 CLR 449, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646,

THE TIMES MONDAY OCTOBER 13 1997

Portfolio

No	Company	Group	Gr
1	BW	Engineering	
2	Adm&Hry	Distrib	
3	Galtner	Div Lnds	
4	Cobham	Engineering	
5	Safeway	Rst Food	
6	London Pac	OTH Flt	
7	Bespak	Healthcare	
8	Metcor	Engineering	
9	Grasshopper	Shipment	

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Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total to match the weekly dividend published in the *Sunday Times* to w

6.22	Large	Wash	up	25%	+	7	12.1
6.36	Lykes	(S)		16%	+	9	3.6
29.50	Mining			76%			1.5
5.69	PEX			4%	+	4	
25.70	Parkland			183%			4.5
252.10	Pennland			97	-	3	4.6
17.10	Pillars			78%	-	1	5.6

TRANSPORT

622.40	Comit	357	-	14½	4.3
40.80	Dut	253	-	1	3.2
92.10	Eurodollar	188	-		4.7
298.90	Functional Us	65	-	2½	...
651.90	Finishes	209	-	7	3.3
81.50	Fisher (James)	127	-	4	2.9
303.00	Forth Port	530	+	17	2.7

11.80	Season	41 1/2	1	3.7
127.50	Servicemir	316 1/2	7 1/2	2.1
593.50	Stagecoach	166 1/2	15	1.7

Year	Age	Sex	Weight (kg)	Length (cm)	Condition
1998	10	Male	132.40	268	5.0
1998	10	Female	131.10	268	5.0
1998	10	Male	134.90	272	5.9
1998	10	Female	133.10	272	5.9

8.14	Alkane	Propan	125	1.5
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Price as suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex stock; ▲ Ex

[illegible][illegible]

Deere & Co.	1997	149	88	1997	149	88	1997	149	88
Deere & Co.	1998	149	88	1998	149	88	1998	149	88
Deere & Co.	1999	149	88	1999	149	88	1999	149	88
Deere & Co.	2000	149	88	2000	149	88	2000	149	88
Deere & Co.	2001	149	88	2001	149	88	2001	149	88
Deere & Co.	2002	149	88	2002	149	88	2002	149	88
Deere & Co.	2003	149	88	2003	149	88	2003	149	88
Deere & Co.	2004	149	88	2004	149	88	2004	149	88
Deere & Co.	2005	149	88	2005	149	88	2005	149	88
Deere & Co.	2006	149	88	2006	149	88	2006	149	88
Deere & Co.	2007	149	88	2007	149	88	2007	149	88
Deere & Co.	2008	149	88	2008	149	88	2008	149	88
Deere & Co.	2009	149	88	2009	149	88	2009	149	88
Deere & Co.	2010	149	88	2010	149	88	2010	149	88
Deere & Co.	2011	149	88	2011	149	88	2011	149	88
Deere & Co.	2012	149	88	2012	149	88	2012	149	88
Deere & Co.	2013	149	88	2013	149	88	2013	149	88
Deere & Co.	2014	149	88	2014	149	88	2014	149	88
Deere & Co.	2015	149	88	2015	149	88	2015	149	88
Deere & Co.	2016	149	88	2016	149	88	2016	149	88
Deere & Co.	2017	149	88	2017	149	88	2017	149	88
Deere & Co.	2018	149	88	2018	149	88	2018	149	88
Deere & Co.	2019	149	88	2019	149	88	2019	149	88
Deere & Co.	2020	149	88	2020	149	88	2020	149	88
Deere & Co.	2021	149	88	2021	149	88	2021	149	88
Deere & Co.	2022	149	88	2022	149	88	2022	149	88
Deere & Co.	2023	149	88	2023	149	88	2023	149	88
Deere & Co.	2024	149	88	2024	149	88	2024	149	88
Deere & Co.	2025	149	88	2025	149	88	2025	149	88
Deere & Co.	2026	149	88	2026	149	88	2026	149	88
Deere & Co.	2027	149	88	2027	149	88	2027	149	88
Deere & Co.	2028	149	88	2028	149	88	2028	149	88
Deere & Co.	2029	149	88	2029	149	88	2029	149	88
Deere & Co.	2030	149	88	2030	149	88	2030	149	88
Deere & Co.	2031	149	88	2031	149	88	2031	149	88
Deere & Co.	2032	149	88	2032	149	88	2032	149	88
Deere & Co.	2033	149	88	2033	149	88	2033	149	88
Deere & Co.	2034	149	88	2034	149	88	2034	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2036	149	88	2036	149	88	2036	149	88
Deere & Co.	2037	149	88	2037	149	88	2037	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2039	149	88	2039	149	88	2039	149	88
Deere & Co.	2040	149	88	2040	149	88	2040	149	88
Deere & Co.	2041	149	88	2041	149	88	2041	149	88
Deere & Co.	2042	149	88	2042	149	88	2042	149	88
Deere & Co.	2043	149	88	2043	149	88	2043	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2047	149	88	2047	149	88	2047	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2049	149	88	2049	149	88	2049	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2051	149	88	2051	149	88	2051	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2127	149	88	2127	149	88	2127	149	88
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Deere & Co.	2130	149	88	2130	149	88	2130	149	88
Deere & Co.	2131	149	88	2131	149	88	2131	149	88
Deere & Co.	2132	149	88	2132	149	88	2132	149	88
Deere & Co.	2133	149	88	2133	149	88	2133	149	88
Deere & Co.	2134	149	88	2134	149	88	2134	149	88
Deere & Co.	2135	149	88	2135	149	88	2135	149	88
Deere & Co.	2136	149	88	2136	149	88	2136	149	88
Deere & Co.	2137	149	88	2137	149	88	2137	149	88
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	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500
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50	M. Quire	Ente	174	~	1	0.6	87	Scott	Rady	362	+ 21	
10	84	Conce	92	~	4		63	13	Chowdh	454	+ 4	
65	50	M. Quire	137	~	4	0.8	63.5		Sleepy	147	+ 4	
38	30	Marple	301	~	7	2.3	73.40		Southwest	459	- 1	
12	20	Alvares	303	~	1	49	25.8	8.25	Shooting	17		
10	Mercury	Euro 7v	136	~	14	2.0	33.7	150.80	Taylor	Weldon	685	+ 14
72	Mercury	Euro 7v	54	~	4			50.60	Trujillo	Ca	302	

70	Personal Regt	276.7	+ 423	17	55.5	776.30	Asheboro	222.7	+ 37.4
71	Pratt's Regt	134	...	3.9	...	215.40	Asheboro	77.4	+ 3.4
72	7th Cav Regt	232	...	0.2	...	50.00	Asheboro	182.7	+ 1.4
73	Roberts	565	...	2.5	...	288.50	Beaufort	307	+ 7.4
74	Roberts	572.4	+ 1	1.0	...	4,553.80	Beaufort	219	+ 19.4
75	School Acad Regt	72	...	0.3	...	1.15	Beaufort	36	+ 1
76	School Acad Regt	72	...	0.3	...	80.30	Beaufort	22.4	+ 2

166	TH Property	44%	1%	2.9	31.4	17.70	Monaco	30% - 2
169	TH Tech Inc	451%	7%	2.7	36.9	7.19	Manhasset	170 - 6
170	Tenney Trust	274%	27%	7.3	69.7	1,300.70	Honolulu	83% - 2%
171	Underwood Jet	155%	1%	1.9	68.6	1,526.50	North	212% - 10
172	Valley Inc Tst	140%	2%	2.6	33.0	23.70	Prostate Tst	178% - 3
180	Valley (Auto Plan)	592%	4%	7.8	64.2	369.80	FGC	
181	Wasserman, Dr. Inc	116%	4%	0.6				

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997).

2,283.00	Bowman Inc.	100%	1	1	23.1	3,028.10	Shaper	7
228.00	Bowman Int'l	51%+ 1	5	12	23.1	209.10	Hong Rubber	7
157.40	Bz Polychem	48%+ 8%	4.8	11.4		233.50	JBA Hedges	7
2.33	Bz Uranium	14%				114.00	Johnson Clean	7
163.30	Bolton Gup	11%+ 40%	3.6	13.2		31.10	Kohmatsu	7
1,198.50	Brazil	28% - 5	2.8	16.2		75.20	Kowal Sys	7
57.60	Capital Inc	17%	4.4	13.6				

174	64 70 Wyndham	2237	1	23 148	76.80	Perkins	1
62					62.00	Read Executive	1
174					31.90	Reidman Sec	2
18.4					7,299.00	Reidman Int	1
5.3					65.00	Ricardo Group	1
22.6					94.50	Robert Walker	3
15.1					44.50	Roth & Hoken	3

151	15.70	Govt. Bonds	1.91	+ 27	2.2	18.3		
22.2	255.10	Japan	1955	+ 35	3.0	16.4		
...	9.63	Thru Estate	1974	+ 7	12.1			
	63.00	Debitum. Japan	2874	+ 17	3.0	14.7	28,456.87	BT
	19.00	Debitum. Ests	7974	+ 2	2.4	21.8	12,853.93	Cable Wireless
	36.50	Denmark	1977	+ 18	2.8	11.4	3,572.70	Cable/Wireless Coms
	298.60	Debitum. Hides	5577	+ 20	1.4	25.0	572.90	Tele. Instr.

100	Lot	117.7	2	5.8	70.0	8.11	Guinness
203	Lot 5, Imp	107.7	2	5.5	24.3	3.00	Farrell
5,415.60	Land Sale	250.7	8	32	31.3	21.10	Farrell
15.13	Lot & Assoc.	35	2	25	19.0	1.23	Forster (John)
257	Lot & Main	7.1				6.83	French
265.00	Lot North Sec	119	6	5.5	14.1	22.48	Harmon
7.8	MEPC	540.7	4	4.8	25.7	22.20	Higgins

...and the fact that the *Journal* is a journal of the American Psychological Association, the largest and most influential of the professional organizations in the field of psychology, is a source of great strength and authority.

32	10	44.1	22.60	Lambert	164	+ 78	6.1	11.0
47	15	28.8	41.10	Larport	136 $\frac{1}{2}$		12.0	11.0
3	5.2	11.6	48.50	Leeds	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.4	9.9
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	8.7	44.5	3.22	Little Wilep Op	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 4	12.0	18.0
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.5	9.0	5.38	Lyles (S)	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.8	11.9
4	7.3	10.6	29.50	Machray	16 $\frac{1}{2}$		1.5	82.9
31	2.0	14.5	3.69	PEY	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			2.8

37	27	108	118.10	Central Term R	15	+	3 1/2	34	18.0
2	28	7.1	21.43	Clasico 6-1	105	-	2	4.8	37.1
5	6.0	17.0	58.90	Clasico Opt	142	-	2	4.8	9.7
1	1.3	28.0	822.40	Dante	357	-	14 1/2	4.3	8.3
2	5.8	25.1	40.80	Dut	253	-	1	3.2	10.6
21	0.9	25.2	82.10	Eurobailly	186	-	1	3.2	13.3
7 1/2	21	25.1	258.90	Eurobailly 1/2	86	-	7	4.7	14.8

WATER

175	6.1	250.70	France - 1%	242	- 1%	
80	7.8		France - 1.82%	850	- 1.82%	0.1
28	18.8	184.70	Southern Navy	769	+ 8%	3.3
		13.80	Southern Vests	685	+ 2	3.6
		94.30	Treasury	18%		14.5
3.1	11.3					
5	5.7					
89						



COPA
CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF PEASANTS OF AMERICA

THE FACTS

Turnover (1997): £6.95 billion
Pre-tax profit: £405.2 million
Employees: 75,000
Brands: Asda, George.

THE BOARD

Archie Norman, chairman. Appointed chief executive in December 1991 at the group's lowest point. Previously finance director at Kingfisher and before that a partner at McKinsey & Co. Now Conservative MP for Tunbridge Wells and vice-chairman of the party charged with helping reform its structure.

Allan Leighton, chief executive. Was Archie Norman's deputy. Before that retail director and marketing director. Took the CE job in September, 1996. Previously worked for 18 years at the Mars Corporation.

Tony Campbell, trading director. With Asda since 1985.

Phil Cox, finance director. Appointed January 1992. Formerly group chief executive of Burns Anderson and finance director of Home Brothers.

Ian Gibson, joint deputy chairman. Appointed 1993. Managing director of Nissan UK and vice-president of Nissan Europe.

Frank Knight, joint deputy chairman. Appointed 1991. Chairman of Field Group and of More O'Ferrall. Deputy chairman of Belford.

Non-executive directors: Susan Ellen. Appointed September, 1992. Managing director of United Racecourses Holdings and former managing director of BUPA health services.

Francis Maude. Appointed July, 1992. A Conservative Party luminary, like Archie Norman, and former Financial Secretary to the Treasury. A managing director at Morgan Stanley.

Richard North is also linked to Norman. The finance director of Base was formerly employed by Coopers & Lybrand, auditors to Kingfisher, Norman's old employers.

Ian Robinson. Appointed June, 1997. Chief executive of Scottish Power.

Dr Martin Read. Appointed March, 1996. Managing director, Logica.

The key fact to remember about Asda is that it almost went bust at the beginning of the Nineties. That crisis has shaped all subsequent events at the group. New managers, headed by Archie Norman, were given the opportunity to turn the company around and did so with such gusto that the Asda we see today is almost unrecognisable from the company they joined six years ago.

How the company will look in another few years will largely depend on Allan Leighton. Norman's former deputy, who took over as chief executive at the start of this year.

The distinctive corporate culture established by the new regime is firmly in place. But Asda's strategy for growth has been called into question by its failed effort to buy the Welcome Break service station business and its fruitless merger talks with Safeway.

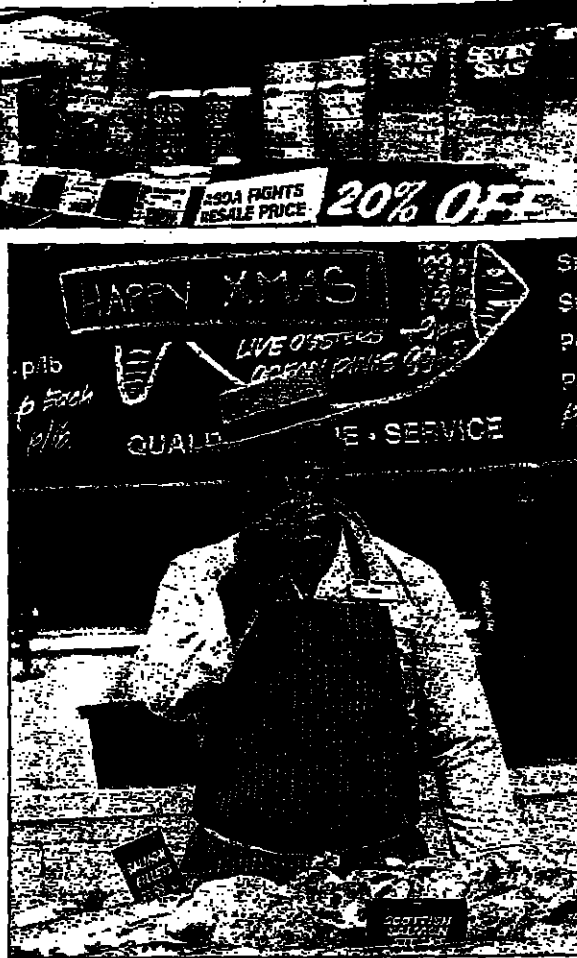
When Norman joined the group it immediately became apparent that one of his strengths is harnessing other people's ideas. A lot of the changes in culture at Asda, which had been run on traditional corporate lines, were brought in by Leighton from his 18 years at Mars Corporation. Asda's open-plan offices, use of Christian names, and absence of directors' dining room are all Mars practices.

Among the changes brought in and still going strong are the practice of referring to staff as "colleagues" and the "Tell Archie" scheme. Staff are encouraged to write to Norman with ideas, all of which he examines and, if he likes, get put into practice.

If it all sounds wonderfully touchy-feely, that would not be quite accurate. "Colleagues" in the Asda House headquarters work very long hours: there are, after all, only half as many of them to run the business as in pre-Norman days. In the stores "colleagues" are constantly assessed to make sure they are keeping the checkouts ticking over at the required speed.

Integrity Works rates Asda's ethical expression as 7/10 because while it has adopted many US best-practice ideas on customer and employee relations, it has not made a concise statement of business principles, the centrepiece of many successful US corporations. The company scores 10/10 on the "fat cat" count. Even though Norman has been rewarded with salary and option payments, Crisp

CORPORATE PROFILE ASDA



Allan Leighton, left, chief executive, and Archie Norman, centre, the chairman, are as at home on the shop floor as in the boardroom of Asda. Employees have adapted to such ideas as 24-hour opening at Christmas, and Asda campaigned in its supermarkets against resale price maintenance.

Consulting reckons he is worth it for "an outstanding company performance".

Norman has certainly worked himself and others hard to get that performance. He encourages suggestions and criticism from others, but also spends time going round the stores photographing things he does not like, from rubbish piled in corridors to ugly packaging. These photos are pinned on a board in Asda House with his handwritten, acerbic comments stuck on them along with the name of whoever is expected to put the problem right.

Last week Norman was in Blackpool, delivering executive insights to his latest corporate responsibility, the Conservative Party. The hand-over at Asda at the beginning of this year from Norman, now an MP and vice-chairman of the Conservative Party as well as non-executive chair-

man of Asda, was apparently handled smoothly within the company. Some in the City, on the other hand, were put out that after months of being assured he was staying "one sunny morning when no one was looking, he was out".

Norman was and is viewed

as absolutely central to Asda's turnaround, which is why the question of succession was particularly delicate. Founded in Yorkshire in 1965, Asda had flourished for two decades as an innovative operator of large-scale, edge-of-town superstores. Its troubles began

after it splashed out on MFI, the furniture retailer, Allied Carpets, and a large number of stores from Gateway (now Somerfield). The company had gone from having £1 billion of cash to more than £1 billion of debt in four years, and shareholder patience snapped.

Institutional investors ousted the old board and put in Patrick Gillingham as chairman. His key appointments were Norman, then finance director of Kingfisher, as chief executive, and Leighton, then with Mars, as marketing director. Norman pushed through a rescue rights issue.

What happened subsequently has been either a victory for imaginative management or a triumph of hype, depending on your point of view. Whichever, the shareholders have seen the benefit: the shares have multiplied eight times in the past five years, from their level of just

above 20p, as the company has gone from a £365 million pre-tax loss in 1991-92 to a £354 million profit last year.

But cynicism is growing among some analysts. The spin that Asda put on the failed deal with Safeway — the suggestions that Asda would have been top dog, that Safeway did not quite measure up, and that Asda was never at least on the deal — has alienated analysts. "They seem to get carried away with the corporate culture and are beginning to believe their own propaganda," said one.

On the surface, not a lot has changed since Leighton's elevation. Norman still works at Asda one or two days a week, and he has strengthened the already impressive board with some new appointments. The company is still building on its reputation for value and good service and expanding its chain of large out-of-town

WHAT THE CITY SAYS

"They have got a quirky staff culture that seems to work really well. They have tuned themselves into the UK consumer and have marketed themselves well, and they seem to have loyal customers without a loyalty card." *Jonathan Pritchard, UBS*

"It has been a textbook recovery, but I think the hardest decisions are now being taken by Allan. Do they continue to plug away at the core business or make an acquisition? The company is definitely at a crossroads. It has great ideas but it needs scale and reach." *Mike Dennis, SGST*

"Asda has an ambitious management team who have a broad vision for the future that may encompass things other than food retailing. The Safeway deal would have given them a secure domestic footing. It could have been a springboard for its international ambitions." *Paul Smiddy, Credit Lyonnais*

Welsh net big deals from Korean incomer

FOUR Welsh companies have won the first big contracts to supply the giant South Korean LG electronics plant in South Wales, bringing orders worth £4.6 million in the first year alone.

The largest contract, worth £2 million a year, has gone to McKechnie Plastic Components, of Llantrisant, to supply plastic injection mouldings for computer monitors.

LG is building a twin-

factory complex at Newport, creating 6,100 jobs in an £1.7 billion project.

Moulded Foams (Wales) of Tonymandy has won a contract to supply £1.5 million worth of expanded polystyrene packaging and Retam Corrugated South West, of Newport, is to supply £1 million worth of cardboard boxes. Mid Wales Litho, of Pontypool, is to print manuals for computers and TV sets.

Utilities regime failing the poor, says watchdog

THE POOR are deprived of a voice against discriminatory pricing in essential services because utilities operate in a public policy vacuum, according to the National Consumer Council (Christine Buckley writes).

The NCC says the Government should take responsibility for issues of poverty and environmental protection. It has told the Government's review of utility regulation: "While the poor are often

hardest hit by certain policies — such as higher charges for those unable to pay by direct debit — no formal policy framework exists for dealing with such inequalities."

Gas competition is failing many businesses and wasting taxpayers' money on futile tendering exercises by public-sector purchasers, says the Utility Buyers' Forum. It says administrative costs may outweigh available savings.

Ethical expression	
Fair-cost quotient	7/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	7/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	74/100
Sources: 'Integrity Works' Crisp Consulting	

WARM WELCOME.

CATHAY PACIFIC

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

SOGDIAN

(b) Of or belonging to Sogdiana, an ancient Persian province corresponding to the modern Samarkand and Bokhara in Uzbekistan. From the Old Persian Suguda, later Sugud. "Heavy drinking is the corollary of survival for a traveller in a Sogdian summer."

WAPPIE

(a) A gambling game played with cards, originating in the West Indies. Perhaps from wap to hit or copulate. "Ah play cards — Ah was a rummy test in me days, and don't talk 'bout wappie! You cud play cards?"

ZIGEUNER

(c) A gypsy. The German cognate with zingano, zingaro. Johann Strauss composed an operetta Der Zigeunerbaron in 1885. "Bartók's passion for the true Hungary and its folk-music as opposed to the Zigeunerbaron travesties."

SEHNSUCHT

(d) Yearning or wistful longing. The German word. "The stickiest romance of all attends, of course, upon gondolas by moonlight, and Gloria felt she must by no means counter or abridge this small enclave of adolescent Sehnsucht in her almost undeviatingly rational friend."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nxc6+ Kd6 2 Na3+ and White emerges a safe pawn ahead as 2 ... Rxc6 loses to 3 Nb5+. White went on to win easily.

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CHANGING TIMES

Guinness merger poised for approval

action can deal with the problem because, at present, it is not in the interest of any single channel provider to give up the advantage of automatic distribution to a high proportion of the cable universe.

There is a risk, however, that if cable operators had full freedom to choose, some channels might collapse.

The ITC will probably seek a compromise increasing flexibility for cable operators without undermining the choice cable television can offer.

ervalued'

OR

McWilliams said a major correction on Wall Street could be triggered by a loss of market confidence or by emerging evidence that US corporate earnings growth was slowing.

Last week, Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve Chairman, said stock market values could not go on rising at the pace seen over the past few years.

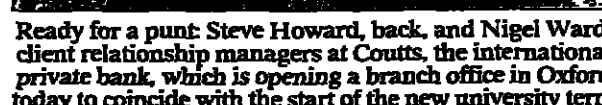
While London is bound to be affected by a sharp correction on Wall Street, CEBR believes that the UK stock market is still less exposed

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

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While London is bound to be affected by a sharp correction on Wall Street, CEBR believes that the UK stock market is still less exposed



The European Commission will this week grant a conditional clearance to the £24 billion merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. This follows a meeting on Friday of officials representing the 20 EU member state commissioners.

The merger is on the agenda at Wednesday's meeting of the Commission, and observers expect a conditional approval, possibly requiring the sale of one or more leading brands by the parties and a weakening of their control of their distribution networks in some European countries.

Friday's meeting showed considerable support for the merger. The merged business, to be called GMMG Brands, would create the world's biggest drinks producer.

Growth hopes

Businesses outside the booming retail sector believe inflation in their sectors is running at just 10 per cent, well below the official figure for retail price inflation of 3.6 per cent, according to a survey

BY ADAM JONES

given the power to break into the offices of suspected companies and prosecute staff if they obstruct the raid or deliberately supply misleading information.

The CBI claimed the measures, contained in the draft Competition Bill published in August, give the Government's monopoly-busters too much power.

Although it backs the aim of bringing outdated UK competition law into line with the rest of Europe, the CBI said

there is a danger of companies being overburdened with paperwork — as well as contradictory decisions from Brussels and London — unless some of the definitions in the draft legislation are tightened up.

Rufus Ogilvie Smals, chairman of the CBI's competition panel, said the powers that would be given to Office of Fair Trading investigators were alarming: "We have no idea what qualifications they will have to conduct this sort of investigation."



Shares in Bonn's remaining stake in Lufthansa, the state airline, will be issued at 33.30 marks (€11.60) when Germany's biggest public offering in 1997 kicks off on Monday.

Iran has announced the purchase of two Airbus jets from France. The aircraft were bought by the state-run Asseman airline and will be delivered next year.

Royal Dutch/Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, said yesterday that it was in talks with Turkey and Turkmenistan about building a gas pipeline between the two countries.

More than three million private investors have applied to buy shares in the partial privatisation of France Telecom, Michel Bon, its chairman, said.

1987							1987							1987							1987								
High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Vol	YTD %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Vol	YTD %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Vol	YTD %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Vol	YTD %	P/E		
139	100	13.80	AFM System	115	179	139	35.20	IOC Int	149	+27	...	48.8	139	100	13.80	AFM System	115	179	139	35.20	IOC Int	149	+27	...	48.8
139	131	19.30	ALCOA	129	179	139	7.35	718 Corp	169	+8	...	26.8	139	100	13.80	AFM System	115	179	139	35.20	IOC Int	149	+27	...	48.8
122	170	44.30	AMC Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8	122	170	44.30	AMC Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8
139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	26.80	Amco Int Pub	208	-5	1.5	159	129	7.88	Ambridge Int	169	+8	...	26.8
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139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8	139	131	4.10	Amco	129	159	129	4.10	Amco	169	+8	...	26.8
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AN AWARD GIVEN TO COMPANIES COMMITTED TO IMPROVING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PEOPLE

Few subjects excite a headier mixture of concern and bafflement than the interaction between pensions and inflation. When I suggested in this column two weeks ago that annuity rates might fall further, I had not imagined that I would whip up a wave of anxiety among the swollen ranks of the soon-to-retire. It is not often that an economist, of all people, weighs in against excessive gloom, but in this case I do.

On the face of it, the matter looks straightforward. If you are in a defined contribution pension scheme then when you retire, the value of your accumulated pension fund is used to buy an annuity, or annual income, which usually remains fixed until you die.

The size of your annual income depends upon both the size of your fund and the level of annuity rates, which are closely linked to the current market rates on long-term gilts. So when gilt rates fall and take annuity rates down with them you will be worse off.

But the rub, as in all matters of long-term financial arrangements, is that a pound in one period is not the same as a pound in another. This is precisely what drives gilts. The fall in yields this year reflects the market's view that future inflation is likely to be lower than it previously thought. Accordingly, a given

Gloom about pensions too easily overdone



PETER DINKLAGE

sum in so many years' time will be worth more in real terms. Putting it the other way round, a smaller money amount can provide the same income in real terms. So annuity rates can be lower and still leave the pensioner no worse off.

In that case, why the panic about lower prospective pensions? There is one potentially good reason. Not all falls in gilt yields reflect lower expected inflation. If the real yield on gilts falls, then the real value of an annuity will also fall. But if real rates fall, this should support the equity market, thereby increasing the value of the capital sums that are used to purchase annuities.

This is precisely what has happened over the past year as the equity market has soared. It is a bit much to revel in the boost to the value of the fund which lower real rates confer, but simultaneously to complain about lower annuity rates. Swings and roundabouts come to mind.

Yet this is already too complicated. If you speak of real values, most people's eyes glass over. You cannot eat real

values, they often say to me. That is the great irony, of course. You can only eat real values. With perpetual inflation, a fixed sum of money will eventually buy you nothing.

There is some reason for anxiety, though. Even if lower inflation means that the real value of a pension is the same over a pensioner's lifetime, lower annuity rates imply that it will start lower. For the lower rate of inflation will not yet have had time to offset the reduced money value of the annuity. The benefit will only come through later.

So the effect of lower annuity rates, combined with lower inflation, is to redistribute real

income across a pensioner's lifetime — reducing it at the beginning, and increasing it at the end.

People tend not to like this, partly because they are financially myopic, and partly because they see the erosion of real values as an unfortunate and almost accidental occurrence. Wouldn't it be nice, they think, if they could have 12 per cent annuity rates and zero inflation. But they couldn't, or not for long anyway, because once the markets are convinced of zero inflation, annuity rates can be nowhere near 12 per cent.

So the erosion of real value in the traditional fixed annuity system is not accidental. It is systematic. Anyone retiring on such a pension in the last 30 years should have expected it, and accordingly not spent all of their pension in the early years in order to ease things out later. But it is asking a lot of people to do this.

Furthermore, there is the not insignificant matter of the market's judgment. Suppose you retire on an annuity which reflects the market's belief that inflation will be 3

per cent but it subsequently turns out to be 10 per cent. You would soon be in serious difficulties. Still, quite why Fred Bloggs should think himself better able to forecast the future than the international capital markets is beyond me.

Nor is it obvious that if the market is to be wrong about inflation it will be because it proves too optimistic. Inflation may turn out to be much lower than the market expects. After all, that is the story of the last 15 years. And in that case, even though annuity rates are lower, the pensioner could turn out to be better off in real terms.

If this has failed to put your mind at rest, take comfort from looking the worst possible outcome squarely in the face. If gilt yields fell to zero, then annuity rates would be well above this level. For annuities explicitly assume the consumption of the capital over the pensioner's expected life. For a man aged 65, the annuity rate would be about 6.4 per cent. For a woman of the same age it would be about 5.5 per cent. No, please do not write to me complaining about another flagrant example of sexual discrimination. In this instance, the discrimination is rather difficult to overcome. It derives simply from the fact that, on average, women live longer — whatever the yield on gilts.

Holding your ground at the edge of the precipice

After the latest warning for Wall St, Paul Durman looks at fears over the UK market's future

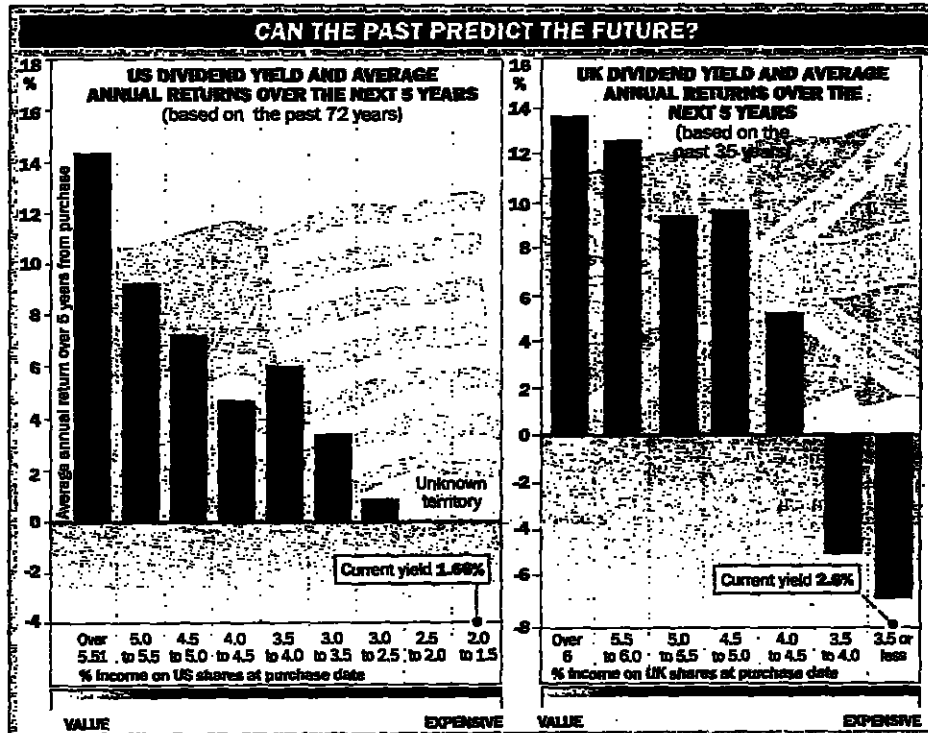
Investors cannot say they weren't warned. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, last week followed December's caution about the stock market's "irrational exuberance" with a new warning that the investment returns from shares must fall.

Combined with the German-led rise in European interest rates, this message prompted retreats in many of the world's stock markets. Yet, almost immediately, analysts started downplaying the significance of Mr Greenspan's remarks, and shrugging off the threat of an increase in US interest rates. As one US report put it: "Investors were in the mood for bullish comments — and that's what they heard." The upshot was Wall Street and the London market suffered only modest setbacks; the Dow Jones industrial average finished the week above 8,000 and the FTSE 100 ended not far short of its peak at 5,227.3.

Many value investors have long argued that most shares are already too expensive on all the old yardsticks — price/book, price/earnings, dividend yield, whatever. Their caution has often looked badly misplaced. Led by the banks and the pharmaceutical companies, the market has raced ahead against a backdrop of near-unanimity that Britain has joined the US on a sunlit upland where steady growth and low inflation stretch far into the distance.

Those stocks that bargain-hunting value investors have found cheap over the past few years have resolutely failed to perform. As a consequence, fund managers that subscribe to the value philosophy have consistently underperformed their peers. PDM and M&G Group, the investment houses respectively identified as the leading institutional and leading retail adherents to value investing, have both damaged their distinguished long-term performance records.

PDM's numerous big stakes



in unimpressive companies have become almost a standing joke. Its dogs include Albert Fisher, Allied Domecq, Booker, Sears, Thorn and Willis Corroon.

Bowing to the pressure, a new and younger M&G management team has tweaked its investment style. It has enjoyed a good August and September.

But Tony Dye, PDM's investment director, remains defiant. He is convinced that share prices are too high. Two illustrations: the current p/e on the entire UK market currently stands at almost 20 compared with the historical average of 13. And the dividend yield, PDM's favourite indicator, has fallen to a historical low of 2.6 per cent.

For Mr Dye, it is not a question of whether the market will tumble, only of when.

This analysis prompted PDM to withdraw 15 per cent of its clients' funds' cash from equities last year, giving Mr Dye a profile and a label ("controversial") he dislikes intensely. That PDM still retains 45 per cent of its clients' £55 billion in UK equities is primarily a reflection of the restraints imposed by its investment mandates and its sense of commercial self-preservation.

Mr Dye argues his case with dozens of slides, including the striking dividend yield bar charts reproduced here. They show what happened to average real returns from equities in the five years after stock markets stood at various dividend yields. Judging by current yields, the outlook looks bleak here and in the US.

Commentators often suggest that the market needs to undergo a modest "correction" to catch its breath before moving higher. But Mr Dye believes the UK and the US are at risk of a much more severe and longer-lasting setback such as befell Japan, whose stock market is still at less than half its 1989 peak. As the table shows, historical comparisons are not encouraging.

According to PDM, many investors are making the error of extrapolating the future from the recent past. The annual return on US equities has, since 1982, averaged around 15 per cent, more than in any other 15-year period in US history. One reason the market has

taken leave of its senses, Mr Dye believes, is the growing use of derivatives. The market has become a commodity, driven by the purchase of options on the future level of the FTSE 100, whose movements are increasingly unrelated to the trading performance of its constituent companies.

The value of outstanding options, futures and other derivatives contracts runs into trillions of dollars. Yet the information is so sketchy that it is impossible to tell where the exposures lie — or to assess the risks of a seismic shock to the world's financial markets. Meanwhile, the list of multi-million-pound derivative blunders grows all the time, with NatWest Markets being the latest addition.

The scale of derivatives trading hints at the extent of leverage in financial markets — large economic interests underpinned by only small down payments. When markets turn, many over-leveraged investors will have to raise cash quickly in order to meet their commitments. The wave of enforced selling that ensues is the classic way in which financial markets become unstable and crash.

Mr Dye is unconvinced by the liquidity argument — the view that stock market levels are supported by the record flows of money from pensions, personal equity plans and other forms of saving. He suggests investors are only expressing a liquidity preference — as between shares, fixed interest bonds, cash, etc. Japan's higher savings ratio has completely failed to prevent eight years of moribund trading. And he dismisses the suggestion that low inflation will enable companies to grow faster and therefore justify higher share prices.

Many analysts accept that, on many conventional ratios, markets are expensive. The

difficulty is that in the current benign environment they cannot imagine where the storm clouds are going to come from. Some investors are tempted to believe, because of low inflation or the growing importance of technology, that the world has entered a new era, allowing them to ignore the old warning signals from p/e ratios, dividend yields and so on.

Mr Dye says: "The deep psychological pressures of bull markets are amazingly strong. Even people who believe things are overheated are terrified of getting off. People just give in, and do things they don't really believe because markets persuade them."

Howard Maguire, head of UK equities at Threadneedle Asset Management, says: "I am as suspicious as the next man of 'it's different this time.' Nonetheless, he believes that the value managers have got it wrong, and that apparently expensive growth companies with good cashflows will continue to produce attractive returns."

Even Colin McLean of Scottish Value Management believes many of his peers have failed to recognise the importance of intellectual capital and brand values in the modern commercial world.

Moreover, Mr Maguire argues that, when compared with bond yields, equities do not look particularly expensive. And, Mr Maguire says, some value stocks are cheap for the very good reason that the companies are poorly managed or have poor prospects.

However, Mr Dye is unimpressed that the business world has fundamentally changed. Irrespective of comparisons with bonds, PDM believes equities are dear in absolute terms — and that means the risks of poor returns are high.

That stance looks set to either break PDM, or make Mr Dye a hero. Either way he will have to put up with more unwelcome publicity.

	Dow Jones return %	Yield at peak %	Subsequent fall %	Years to recover
1921-29	570	2.9	-68	26
1949-68	520	2.9	-42	16
1982-87	877	1.6	?	?

Historical decorating

Period Rooms
Channel 5, 8.00pm

The BBC has *Changing Rooms* and *Ground Force* and now Channel 5 comes up with a series that filches elements from both. A combination of DIY and game show, it challenges two teams to decorate empty rooms in a given period style in eight hours. The budget, the same as in *Ground Force*, is £10,000. The show's host is the breathless host and Hilary Kay, better known as an antiques expert, adjudicator. The showbusiness element can be tiresome but the format does involve a substantial element of historical knowledge and for discerning viewers that will be its main point of interest. Tonight's show comes from Bristol where the task is to create an Edwardian kitchen. Everything from furniture to floor covering, must be true to the times and the essential item is a black cast-iron cooking range.

Equinox
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Postponed from September 1, when a bad night in Paris was still too fresh in the memory, this documentary from the United States looks at car crash victims and one neurosurgeon's pioneering approach to head injuries. Dr Jam Gifford, who works in New York, has had spectacular success with patients who have come close to death. He insists this is due not to a miracle but to science. The key to his approach is that much of the injury occurs after the initial impact. The brain can swell up and if it is not properly monitored and fluid drained from it, the patient can die. Nicole, a high school student, and nine-year-old Alex, both badly injured in car accidents, testify to Dr Jam's method. But it has also provoked controversy and has been rejected by many hospitals as costly and unnecessary.

Picture This
BBC2, 9.30pm

This is a documentary which, given its subject, can hardly miss. Thanks to meningitis, which nearly killed him as a baby, Nick Stephens is very severely disabled. Paralyzed from the neck down, he cannot move or breathe without help. He is kept going by a portable life support system and a team



Student Nick Stephens (BBC2, 9.30pm)

of carers. Yet here he is, at 18, studying law at Oxford with every intention of becoming a barrister. Marion Milne's film neither understates the magnitude of Stephens's ambition (the Bar is not the easiest of professions at the best of times) nor tries to sentimentalise his plight. He has his periods of depression, particularly when he is not the centre of attention. But he is determined not to feel sorry for himself and his tutor speaks warmly of his academic abilities. The film leaves you desperate to know whether he makes it.

Face to Face
BBC2, 11.15pm

Sir Denis Forman has been hugely influential in a high-profile medium yet could probably walk down most streets without being recognised. For 40 years he was with Granada Television, ending up as its managing director and chairman. During this time he was associated, to a greater or lesser extent, with such landmarks of the small screen as *Coronation Street*, *Brideshead Revisited* and *The Jewel in the Crown*. To mark his 60th birthday, and a third volume of memoirs, he faces the unseen Sir Jeremy Isaacs to recall Granada's colourful founder, Sidney Bernstein, the early "cowboy" days at ITV and *The Jewel in the Crown*, which he personally supervised. He reflects, too, on a suffocating childhood, losing a leg in the Second World War and a passion for music.

RADIO CHOICE

Post Script: Poets' Fan Mail
Radio 3, 9.45pm

There is so little poetry on the airwaves that this series of short programmes, running each day this week, is very welcome. Each of five poets will read a work specially commissioned by Radio 3 and written in the form of a letter to a poet from the past. The writer particularly admires. Today's speaker, The Withering, is written by Tonia Paulin in praise of the early 19th-century peasant poet John Clare, who was to become insane after a life lived in poverty despite some patronage. Paulin is probably best known to a wider audience for his appearances on television's *Late Review* but his poetry is a delight. The other poets featured this week are Cyprian, Mark Doty, Kathleen Jamie and Olive Senior.

RADIO 1

6.00am Kevin Gearing and Zol Ball. The all new breakfast show 8.00am Steve Lamacq. 12.00am Jo Whiley. 12.30pm Newsbeat. 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe. 4.00pm Dave Pearson. 6.15pm Newsbeat. 6.30pm Steve Lamacq. Evening Session. 8.30pm Live Music Update with Edgus Strals. 8.45pm Andy Kershaw. 10.30pm May Ann Hobbs. 1.00am Chris Warren. 4.00am Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester. 7.30am Sarah Kennedy. 9.30am Ken Bruce. 11.30am Jimmy Young. 1.30pm Debbie Thompson. 3.00pm Ed Stewart. 5.00pm John Diner. 7.00pm The Harp. 8.00pm Melvyn Lacey. 9.00pm Big Band. 9.30pm The Harp. 10.00pm The Harp. 10.30pm The Harp. 11.00pm The Harp. 11.30pm The Harp. 12.00am The Harp.

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme. 8.00am The Magazine. See Choice. 12.00pm Midday with Mel. 2.00pm Ruaraidh on Five. 4.00pm Melvyn Lacey. 7.00pm The Harp. 8.00pm The Harp. 9.00pm The Harp. 10.00pm The Harp. 11.00pm The Harp. 12.00am The Harp.

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jerry Clark. 7.00am Chris Evans. 10.00am (FM) Robin Banks. (AM) Graham Dine. 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot. (AM) Nicky Horse. 4.00pm Russ. 7.00pm (FM) Paul Coyle. (AM) Calum Jones. 10.00pm Mark Forster. 2.00am Richard Porter.

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin. 9.00am Scott Chisholm. 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly. 2.00pm Tommy Boyd. 4.00pm Peter Dealey. 7.00am Radio 9.00am James White. 1.00am Ian Collins.

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Brahms Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel. 7.00am The Harp. 8.00am The Harp. 9.00am The Harp. 10.00am The Harp. 11.00am The Harp. 12.00am The Harp. 1.00am The Harp. 2.00am The Harp. 3.00am The Harp. 4.00am The Harp. 5.00am The Harp. 6.00am The Harp. 7.00am The Harp. 8.00am The Harp. 9.00am The Harp. 10.00am The Harp. 11.00am The Harp. 12.00am The Harp.

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast. 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10am Farming Today. 6.25am Prayer for the Day. 6.30am Today. 6.45am Tips from Women Gardeners. An anthology of green-fingered women compiled by Deborah Cadbury. Read by Jane Lapinska and Alice Arnold. 1.15pm 5.55am Weather. 6.00am News. 6.05am Start the Week, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg. 10.00am (FM) News with Great Pleasure. Marjorie Wallace, the journalist and head of Sainsbury's, chooses her favourite places of writing. Read by Anne Massey and Tim Pigott-Smith. 10.00am (LW) Daily Service. 10.15am On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler. 10.20am Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. 11.30am Money Box Live, with Vincent Duggan. 12.00pm News. 12.05pm The South of England. 12.25pm Richard Briers. The South of England. 12.55pm The South of England. 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke. 1.40pm The Antenna. 1.45pm Shipping Forecast. 2.00pm News. The Electric Angel, by Beatrice Coln. A play set in the late 1930s. With Liam Brennan, Deirdre Davis and Anne Kyrsten. 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor. 4.00pm News. 4.05pm Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker talks to David Hogg about his new play about Kipling, and considers what happens to a piece of classical music after the premiere — is it ever heard again?

The Magazine
Radio 5 Live, 9.00am

All change in one of the BBC's brightest morning slots. Brian Hayes has been presenting The Magazine for some time but the BBC says that he was only ever in place on a temporary basis, hence the arrival, as the new permanent presenter, of Nicky Campbell. What? Ah, you see you really have been listening to Radio 1. Or perhaps not. Anyway, Campbell is a stalwart of Radio 1 who now brings to The Magazine a somewhat livelier and more in-your-face style than Hayes had. We are told Campbell has always had a keen interest in news and current affairs. He will need it to match the background knowledge that Hayes brought to this place-in and interview segments in this three-hour programme.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday. 6.30am Europa Today. 7.00am News. 7.15am Paradox. 7.30am Newsday. 8.00am News. 8.15am The Port of a Lady. 8.30am The Vintage Chart Show. 8.45am News. 9.00am News. 9.15am News. 9.30am News. 9.45am News. 10.00am News. 10.15am News. 10.30am News. 10.45am News. 11.00am News. 11.15am News. 11.30am News. 11.45am News. 12.00am News. 12.15am News. 12.30am News. 12.45am News. 1.00am News. 1.15am News. 1.30am News. 1.45am News. 2.00am News. 2.15am News. 2.30am News. 2.45am News. 3.00am News. 3.15am News. 3.30am News. 3.45am News. 4.00am News. 4.15am News. 4.30am News. 4.45am News. 5.00am News. 5.15am News. 5.30am News. 5.45am News. 6.00am News. 6.15am News. 6.30am News. 6.45am News. 7.00am News. 7.15am News. 7.30am News. 7.45am News. 8.00am News. 8.15am News. 8.30am News. 8.45am News. 9.00am News. 9.15am News. 9.30am News. 9.45am News. 10.00am News. 10.15am News. 10.30am News. 10.45am News. 11.00am News. 11.15am News. 11.30am News. 11.45am News. 12.00am News. 12.15am News. 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The eyes have it down in rural thriller land

To those whose attention drifted during *A Dance to the Music of Time* and who finished Thursday night still not entirely sure which of our trio of tall, dark handsome young men was James Purney, Bright Hair (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday) offered a second chance. He was the one in the glasses and corduroy jacket, which must have been a nice change after all those dinner jackets and stiff collars.

Still playing a would-be writer, though, and still playing opposite members of the Fox family. If it's Thursday, it must be Edward Fox giving it a plenty as the elusive Uncle Giles. Thankfully, however, it was the weekend, which meant that the girl in the school dress and spaw boater must be Emilia Fox.

Whether she passed muster as a 15-year-old I shall leave to those whose knowledge of teenage girls is rather more current than mine. But she seemed convincing en-

ough, especially as it soon became clear that Ann Devenish was no ordinary teenager. For a start, at moments of high drama (we were three bodies down by the end of part one), her beautiful brown eyes would go black and starey. The friend of Ashminster had struck with the contact lenses again.

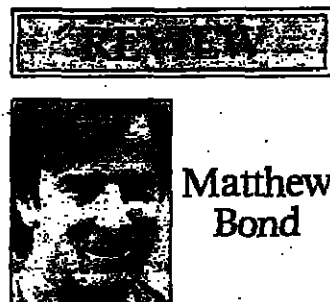
Ann's eyes were just one of several oddities that all led to the same question on Saturday night: just how seriously were we supposed to be taking this?

A deeply gruesome corpse at the first crime scene suggested an answer of "very", but then the doubts set in. Two very slightly over-the-top performances, from Jim Carter as Ann's father and Victoria Wicks as her headmistress, suggested that this wasn't real life after all, a suggestion that a camera pretending to be a badie behind a tree later confirmed. We were in rural thriller land, which if you don't know it, is down the M4

and... well, if you get to Miss Marple country you know you've gone too far.

In rural thriller land, people think nothing of teenage girls who keep popping up at crime scenes suffering from amnesia, clutching — or latterly driving — a large piece of evidence; nor indeed of good-looking English masters, who urge their blossoming pupils to "be true only to your talent".

We finished Saturday's episode thinking they were both as much as each other. Which is pretty much where we ended last night's conclusion, too, a curious lack of progress which made the dénouement more interesting than thrilling. Mind you, if you began the evening already knowing that Donne was a dualist, I'm not absolutely sure it would count even as that. Still, Fox will have done her budding reputation no harm, while Oliver Mil-



Matthew Bond

burn, who played her teenage admirer, Lawrence, impressively, ensured she has a reputation to build on. As for Purney, it's back to cocktail parties and "Ah, Stringham", I wonder if he's had enough of would-be writers yet? My own little dance with time took me to the Natural History Museum last week, where I listened to David Attenborough talk about, well, natural history, and

bumped into an old university friend, now editor of *The Natural World*. "Ah, Stringham," I began. He looked puzzled, which as his name is Neil is probably fair.

Anyway it was the sort of evening when everyone was so enthusiastic about natural history (the evening marked the 40th birthday of the BBC's Natural History Unit) that I went to bed fully resolved to be a wildlife cameraman when I grew up.

When I woke and remembered I was grown up (despite a rather adolescent headache suggesting otherwise) the best plan was to be a cameraman when they do. Thankfully, *The Animal Zone* (BBC2) makes that pretty easy.

It's just such a good idea, linking assorted wildlife programmes across the hour-and-a-half of late Sunday afternoon when there's nothing else to watch. The two bits I caught up with were *Chimpanzee Diary*, which involved an

improbably glamorous animal behaviourist chasing chimpanzees through the jungle with a video camera; and *Africa's Forgotten Elephants*, which didn't.

Forgotten elephants turned out to be slightly stretching a point. Had I stayed at home watching television rather than studying savannah elephants in Kenya, Cynthia Moss would certainly have known about the desert elephants of Namibia.

They're the ones that surf down sand-dunes, right? As it turned out they didn't have any footage of elephants performing that particular trick (honestly they don't), but they did have pictures of beach elephants using their trunks as snorkels, I forgive them.

The narration, both Moss's own and Attenborough's, though, had been cleverly written to appeal to a wide age range and was unashamedly prole-

phant. The one omission, it seemed to me, was that having dropped in on elephants across the full geographic range of Africa, they didn't look at an area where elephant over-population is the problem. Unless, of course, the documentaries that alerted me to that particular problem are now out of date.

I watched *The Liners* (Channel 4, Saturday) simply because I like big ships and because even as we watched *Canberra* was en route to a Pakistani scrapyard. The series itself turned out to be Australian-made, educational in tone and the proud possession of an extraordinarily florid commentary. Liners, we learnt, to the accompaniment of trumpets, "were like rockets of the space age, pinnacles of human achievement, representing industrial and technological might". Some fascinating archive footage was best watched with the sound turned down.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (99130)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (280577)
- 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (378095)
- 9.30 Style Challenge (1) (322085)
- 9.55 Kilroy (1) (301972)
- 10.25 Change That (1) (212752)
- 11.00 News (1) and weather (7774348)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (1) (707874)
- 11.35 Room for Improvement: The home of one of Ireland's top interior designers (1) (371545)
- 12.00 News (1) and weather (8064597)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (708074)
- 12.35 Going for a Song (5502435)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (77894)
- 1.30 Regional News (1) (73571022)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (7533525)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (71360435)
- 2.10 Quincey (1) (8218451)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (1) (1541058)
- 3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (4991874)
- 3.30 Playdays (1) (8006861)
- 3.50 Enchanted Landscapes (9597890)
- 4.00 Road Dahl's Revolting Recipes (8327955)
- 4.15 Noah's Island (1) (6222292)
- 4.40 Goodbyes (1) (8315708)
- 5.00 Newsworld (1) (2019665)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (5681890)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (71360435)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (690)
- 6.30 Regional News (1) (482)
- 7.00 This Is Your Life: Michael Angel surprises another unsuspecting personality with the Big Red Balloon (1) (2348)
- 7.30 Here and Now: Silent Witness? Chris Choi investigates the growing number of cases of sexual abuse of people with learning or physical disabilities that never go to court because the victims are not deemed competent witnesses (1) (229)
- 8.00 EastEnders: The events of the past few days take their toll on this Jack. Corinne's planned move to Bolton does not go down well with Joe (1) (588)
- 8.30 A Prince Among Men: Gary embarks on the daunting task of orchestrating a reconciliation with his family (1) (2413)
- 9.00 News (1) regional news and weather (695)
- 9.30 Bloom! Marvellous Liz contends with Jack's fear of flying and the squabbling grandmothers-to-be (1) (40145)
- 10.00 Panorama: In-depth current affairs (1) (705771)
- 10.40 Full Circle with Michael Palin (1) (1) (23213)
- 11.35 Film 197 with Barry Norman: Reviews of *Wild*, starring Stephen Fry, *Shooting Fish*, a British comedy, and *Suburbia*, about a successful rock star returning home (1) (577213)
- 12.05am The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945)
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PROFILE 44

After the crisis
and behind the
scenes at Asda

BUSINESS

BLUES 46

Don't overdo the
pensions gloom,
says Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY OCTOBER 13 1997

Treasury model supports a successful entry to EMU

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Treasury's own model of the economy suggests that Britain could successfully join the European single currency in 1999 as long as taxes are raised to prevent a boom in the housing market.

This is the conclusion of the Ernst & Young ITEM Club, the only private sector organisation with

access to the Treasury's econometric model. The results of its simulation are likely to be of acute interest to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is widely assumed to be pushing a pro-single currency agenda within the Government.

John Gaster, ITEM's chief economist, decided to run the model to analyse the implications of entry in 1999 and see whether the results supported widespread assumptions

that the British economy would be "blown apart" by such a move.

He claims surprise at the relatively benign message which the exercise turned up.

ITEM decided to set an exchange rate at entry of DM2.85, roughly where the pound is currently trading.

The model suggests that, as long as fairly robust action were taken to contain activity in the housing market, joining the single

currency would not lead to the inflationary boom that many fear.

On entry, short-term interest rates would fall initially to 4.5 per cent — the average of European interest rates which is thought likely to prevail at the start of economic and monetary union.

To counter the threat of a consumer and housing market boom, ITEM proposes a cut in mortgage interest tax relief (Miras) from 10

per cent to zero in April 1999, and two successive 10 per cent increases in council tax, in 1999 and 2000. These measures would take £3 billion out of the economy.

ITEM argues that, as long as a targeted fiscal tightening of this kind were to be embraced, inflation would ease after entry into the single currency and that prices would fall by the end of 2001.

Mr Gaster said: "Seen through the eyes of the Treasury model, EMU entry in 1999 could well succeed at the cost of bearable and relatively short-term pain for consumers, house-owners and exporters." Higher taxes and a relatively firm exchange rate would help to slow economic growth down to 2 per cent from 3.5 per cent estimated for this year. ITEM noted that, by 2002, adjustment to membership of the euro would have occurred.

Renewed offer for Smith to tackle debt fear

BY MARTIN WALLER

TIM WATERSTONE will this week renew his bid to take over his former employer, WH Smith, with a fresh offer that leaves his buyout vehicle with significantly less debt.

He and SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, are drawing up new proposals to be put to the WH Smith board after talks between his team and City institutions speaking for about half Smith's share capital.

No formal approach has yet been received by the retailer. Asked whether one would be considered, a spokesman last night said: "If Tim Waterstone puts a proposal to us which is interesting and new, then yes."

Mr Waterstone's new plan is expected to offer WH Smith shareholders about 150p in cash per share, plus matching equity to let them participate in the group's continuing performance. An earlier plan to offer £2 a share in cash was criticised for leaving the buyout too encumbered with debt.

Mr Waterstone, who created the bookshop chain bearing his name and then sold it to WH Smith, has also bowed to pressure to reduce the value of his Daisy & Tom children's clothing and toys retailer in his proposals. This would previously have been sold to the bidding vehicle for £35 million, but its price is likely to be cut to just £9 million, with deferred consideration of up to £30 million if certain targets are met.

Richard Handover, WH Smith's new chief executive, is to start his own charm offensive in the City this week. He will meet institutions for the first time on Thursday and Friday.

Mr Waterstone proposes — if his bid is eventually launched and is successful — to sell various WH Smith assets, including its share in the Our Price music chain, and to concentrate on the core business. However, his plans may meet further opposition from the incumbent management, which may choose to do this itself rather than bring in an outside management vehicle.

BAT insurance plotting merger deal with Zurich

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BAT INDUSTRIES has announced merger talks with a huge Swiss insurance company to create one of the world's biggest players in financial services, with a value of £20 billion or more.

A deal would also bring closer BAT's long-awaited plans to demerge its insurance operations from cigarette manufacturing.

The company was refusing to comment further but confirmed talks with Zurich Insurance that would create a Zurich-based business with a stock market quotation in London and Switzerland. The Swiss company would have a majority stake of 55 per cent in the merged group, with BAT holding the rest. Rolf Hüppi, the Zurich chairman, would be chairman and chief executive.

although Sandy Leitch, head of BAT's business, would have a job. But there are unlikely to be job losses because BAT's financial services businesses are run as separate entities, without a sizeable head office. "It's about growth rather than cost-cutting," said one insider.

The two companies have been in discussions for some time, but there was concern last night that a successful outcome could be prejudiced by the early disclosure. Apparent leaks to the weekend press forced a statement confirming discussions "which may or may not lead to a merger..."

BAT owns the Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, the Farmers US operation and Threadneedle Asset Management. This summer Zurich

bought Scudder, Stevens & Clark, the US fund manager, to add to its existing Kemper Corporation fund management arm and is known to be looking for other acquisitions.

A merger could be agreed in the next few weeks and would leave Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, to run the group's tobacco interests.

Last year BAT, which has made no secret of its wish to expand in financial services to achieve the necessary critical mass to compete on the world stage, abandoned talks with Commercial Union after a failure to agree the structure of any merged group. This problem appears to have been overcome in talks with the Swiss by putting the latter in the driving seat.

Zurich's market capitalisation is about £12 billion. As part of a conglomerate, BAT's financial services side is more difficult to value, but analysts estimate perhaps £10 billion.

The news is likely to be welcomed by the London market when trading opens this morning. BAT has been striving to demerge its two quite different businesses. Added impetus has come from moves towards settlement of various legal actions against tobacco makers in the US. In addition, possible UK government plans to scrap advance corporation tax would benefit a stand-alone tobacco business.



Employees of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson test the London Stock Exchange's new electronic trading service

Purves to retire at HSBC

BY ADAM JONES

HSBC HOLDINGS yesterday confirmed City speculation that Sir William Purves will retire as chairman next May, to be succeeded by John Bond, the current chief executive.

The City is expected to take the news of the departure of one of its most respected bankers in good heart today. His retirement on May 31 did not mean the bank would be

deflected from its recent profitable path, analysts said.

There had been a rumour Sir William would announce his retirement at the start of next year. Sir William, 65, joined the group, which owns Midland Bank, in 1954. He became chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in 1986 and then HSBC Holdings in 1991.

As part of a reshuffle across the group, Keith Whitson, 54,

chief executive of Midland Bank and an HSBC employee since 1961, will succeed Mr Bond as HSBC chief executive.

Mr Bond, 56, has occupied the position since 1992. One analyst suggested that the new management team would be a bit grey after the departure of Sir William, who won a DSO for bravery in Korea. But the analyst said Mr Bond and Mr Whitson had both done excellent jobs.

SEVERAL Stock Exchange member firms are to forbid staff from offering to deal "at best price" when electronic trading starts on October 20.

The brokers are worried they will be ripped-off by the "make in the grass" rise, where ruthless traders input absurd orders — say, to buy at 1p — to trap the unwary when liquidity in a stock is poor.

The Exchange said that Saturday's final rehearsal was a success. It added that the system had again proved robust in extreme testing.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

CSFB tipped for BZW

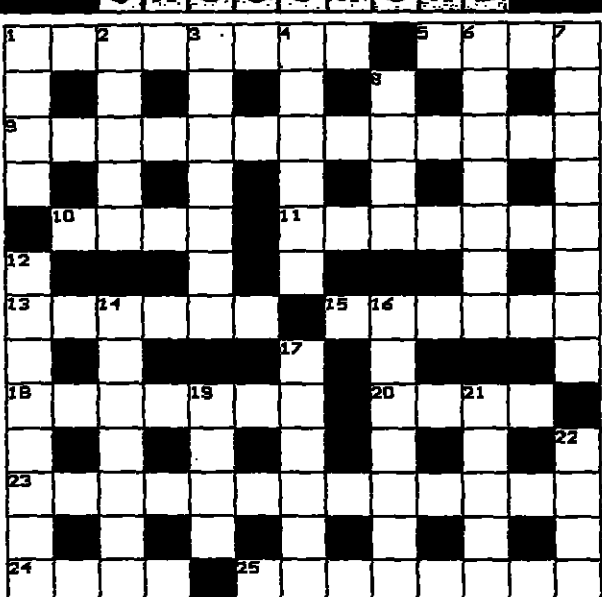
CRSDIT Suisse First Boston was yesterday being tipped as a front runner to buy the BZW investment banking businesses put up for sale by Barclays (Adam Jones writes).

CSFB, located just a stone's throw from BZW's offices at Canary Wharf, London, said it would not comment on market speculation yesterday. However,

some observers see it as the most credible potential bidder for the other investment banks ruled themselves out.

Commerzbank of Germany, an early favourite for the BZW equities and corporate finance operations, has said that it will not bid, as has ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. Paribas, of France, has admitted interest in the two BZW businesses.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1223

ACROSS

- 1 Warren —, Battle of — (8)
- 5 Sword-handled, one may be backed to it (4)
- 9 Sausage/batter dish (4-2-3-4)
- 10 Crooked; propensity (4)
- 11 Laborious (7)
- 12 Inevitable (6)
- 13 Hurtle; progress through life (6)
- 18 Contrition (7)
- 20 Jack —, Kentish rebel (14/50) (4)
- 23 Be unassuming (4,4,5)
- 24 Low (high tide) (4)
- 25 Ruler of the island (Tempest) (8)

DOWN

- 1 Loathe (4)
- 2 Satisfy; add water to (lime) (5)
- 3 Very stupid (7)
- 4 Cream cake (6)
- 6 Variant form of atom (7)
- 7 Finance ministry (8)
- 8 Geras; fix (competition draw) (4)
- 12 A rug; a soldier's helmet (8)
- 14 Fete lottery (7)
- 16 Receives; tolerates (7)
- 17 Fine applied surface (6)
- 19 Space; part of house (4)
- 21 Bird; Golden Hind commander (5)
- 22 Right to forbid (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1222

ACROSS: 1 Raincoat 5 Scum 9 D-notice 10 Helen 11 Enid 12 E number 14 L-plate 16 R month 19 Innings 21 D-day 24 Twain 25 Illness 26 Ruby 27 Snickly DOWN: 1 Rude 2 John 3 Chindit 4 A level 6 Caliban 7 Monarchy 8 Thou 13 Cloister 15 Linear B 17 Middle C 18 T-shirt 20 Non-U 22 Azeri 23 Spy

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Telecoms leads as options boost pay of US executives

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE American love affair with performance-related pay is going from strength to strength, in spite of some apparently outrageous abuses. The average chief executive of a publicly held US company was paid \$2 million in share options last year, up by more than 50 per cent on the previous year.

A survey by KPMG, the accountant, shows that the average US chief executive's annual base salary of \$600,000 is being more than quadrupled by incentive plans. The highest salaries are in the telecommunications sector.

Controversy over US corporate salaries has been kindled by news last week that Occidental Petroleum is paying Ray Irani, its chairman, \$95 million to rip up his contract, which was so generous that it was threatening the oil group's financial health.

Don Sagolla, the KPMG partner in its performance and compensation consulting practice, said: "The entertainment and telecommunications industries are especially focused on stock compensation,

with the typical CEO receiving over \$3 million in long-term incentives, mostly stock options. Boards of directors and shareholders want CEOs to think and act like owners."

In the KPMG sample of 146 US companies, the average chief executive would receive a quarter of his remuneration as base salary. Another quarter would come from annual incentives and 50 per cent or more would come from long-term incentive plans.

In companies that have outperformed markets and rivals, base salary amounts to only 15 per cent of the total and long-term incentives make up 60 per cent. In underperforming companies, base salaries account for 35 per cent of the package and long-term incentives less than 50 per cent. Mr Sagolla said: "Information, communications and entertainment companies are dealing with mergers and acquisitions, IPOs [initial public offerings], new regulations and more. Although there is unpredictability, the opportunities for rewards are tremendous — both for the chief executive and the shareholders."

Federal 'set to make bid for T&N'

Federal-Mogul, the American engineer, is thought to be readying a £1.4 billion takeover bid for T&N, the British car components group and the subject of takeover speculation on the London market.

The terms are still being decided, but the Americans are hoping to arrange an agreed deal with Sir Colin Hope, T&N's chairman, and other directors as early as this week. The new offer is expected to be pitched at about 260p to 270p a share, against the 235p Federal-Mogul has already indicated it would pay. It is hoped that this will be enough to deter other bidders and secure the approval of the T&N board.

Bovis float

P&O, the transport and shipping group, will this week start the task of selling Bovis, its housebuilding business, to the stock market in preparation for a flotation next month. The company is expected to announce the timetable for the float, which will see Bovis shares trading for the first time at the start of December, and the appointment of a stockbroker. Analysts think the business is worth about £250 million. Hambros Bank has been appointed adviser to the issue. The float is by means of a placing with City institutions.

Winning name

A 68-year-old customer from Northern Ireland has come up with Arcadia as the new umbrella name for the corporate owner of Burton's multiple retailing businesses, including the men's wear shops, Dorothy Perkins and Principles, after the proposed demerger of the Debenhams department stores. Alan Gregson, a former chief brewer, emerged as winner in the competition to find a new name organised by the group. His reward is a two-week holiday in St Lucia.

TOMORROW
Ros Snowden, right, talks to marketing guru Fiona Gilmore

WEDNESDAY
Cuba: not just cigars, Che and Communism, but increasingly a magnet for British investment

THURSDAY
Bronwen Maddox's America agenda

FRIDAY
Anatole Kaletsky's economic view

This week in THE TIMES



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